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20 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2009130088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

East Beirut Bomb—A car bo exploded in the Al-Dawrah area of East Beirut 20 September, killing 3 people and injuring over 25 others, Voice of Lebanon radio announced.

One of the casualties was Deputy Joseph Skaf, whose motorcade was passing by when the explosion occurred. Skaf was only slightly injured, the radio said, and "security sources" do not believe he was the target of the bomb.

Presidential Election Issue—Lebanese Forces (LF) Commander Samir Ja'ja' said the LF reject the candidacy of Mikha'il al-Dahir because the latter has given documents to the Syrians which make "concessions" at Lebanon's expense, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Ja'ja' warned all militias against launching any military action, and he said that if a new president is not elected on 22 September, it will be "natural" for President Amin al-Jumayyil to form a transitional government. "Informed sources" cited by the radio confirmed that Al-Jumayyil is studying the formation of a transitional government.

On the Muslim side, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss sent a letter to the Maronite Patriarch rejecting the establishment of a transitional government headed by a Maronite and expressing "astonishment" at the Maronite criticism of U.S.-Syrian efforts to find a solution to the constitutional crisis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni had earlier held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, according to Damascus radio.

Al-Asad also held separate meetings with Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, the leaders of the PSP and Amal Movement, Damascus radio and television noted. Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary on Lebanon criticized "tamperers" who "do not adopt a consistent stand" and who "reject any proposed candidate designed to end the impasse" even though they did not previously reject that candidate.

A Hizballah source cited by the Voice of Lebanon claimed Syria has offered to secure the release of U.S. hostages who were kidnapped from Beirut University College if the United States exerts pressure to hold the presidential election in Al-Najmah Square on 22 September.

Israeli Satellite

The launching of Israel's first satellite "has no connection with arms races," but its technological importance has increased Israel's "international prestige," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in a Jerusalem radio interview. Shamir acknowledged in an IDF radio interview that the satellite launch has a "positive strategic significance."

In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres likewise denied that the launch will escalate the arms race, stressing "the Arabs have acquired and are manufacturing missiles and will acquire any other thing they can."

Among other comments broadcast by Jerusalem radio, the head of Israel Aircraft Industries affirmed that "this is not a spy satellite," but is for "technology research." The coordinator of the project said the satellite's transmissions are not relaying any information since it is not equipped with instruments capable of doing this.

Professor Yuval Ne'eman, director of the Israeli Space Agency, disclosed that the satellite will be followed by others, including a "scientific satellite" which will be more advanced and will supply Israel with information about "space issues."

According to HADASHOT, Ne'eman said the next satellite will be launched in several weeks and will orbit at a height of several hundred kilometers, an altitude which is characteristic of observation satellites.

In the first monitored Arab reaction, JANA said the launching of the "spying satellite" is part of Israel's "psychological war" aimed at forcing the Arabs to accept the policy of "fait accompli."

Claiming that the satellite could not have been launched without the "strategic alliance between the Zionists and America," JANA added that the Arab nation is "fully aware of the danger of this flying Zionist spy."

Saudi Missiles

Pictures taken by a civilian Swedish-French satellite show that launching pads for Saudi Arabia's Chinese-made medium-range missiles are currently under construction in the central part of the Kingdom, Stockholm radio disclosed.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of military commanders in which they discussed the possibility of changing the course of the Shatt al-'Arab, INA noted. The discussion followed a 17 September report by Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH that Iraq is considering a project

to divert the waterway some 20 km from the border with Iran in the event the UN-sponsored talks fail to produce a mutually acceptable agreement.

In another development, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz delivered a message from Saddam Husayn to Saudi King Fahd in Jeddah, according to Riyadh radio.

On the Kurdish issue, INA announced that over 34,000 Iraqi Kurds have now returned in accordance with the amnesty issued on 6 September.

PLO Affairs

PFLP leader George Habash asserted in an interview cited by Radio Monte Carlo that amendment of the Palestine National Charter is "not on the table" and that the declaration of a Palestinian "state" does not mean recognition of Israel.

In another interview reported by KUNA, Habash likewise emphasized that a Palestinian provisional government should not contradict the Charter and should not "obscure" the PLO's role. KUNA noted that Habash has been holding talks with Soviet officials in Moscow.

Maghreb Affairs

The "Maghreb subcommittee for organization and structure" concluded its talks in Tripoli 18 September after adopting a draft plan for the establishment of the "Greater Maghreb," JANA reported.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi subsequently received the members of the committee, who briefed him on the progress of their work, the agency noted.

As for Libya's bilateral unity projects, JANA reported that after holding talks in Tunis with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said he is "optimistic" that Libya and Tunisia will engage in a "historic action."

Regarding the Libyan-Algerian unity project, Algiers radio broadcast remarks by President Chadli Bendjedid stressing the need for a wide public discussion of the draft document as this is "a fateful issue that concerns the Algerian people."

Afghan-Soviet Talks

Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq held talks in the Kremlin with Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, TASS reported, noting that the two sides "thoroughly examined" prospects for bilateral cooperation.

The Soviet and Afghan leaders also agreed that "continuing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from Pakistani territory is preventing an early political settlement relating to Afghanistan."

Kabul radio announced that Afghan security forces recently arrested two FRG citizens who had entered the country illegally with the "extremists." An earlier DPA report disclosed that the two are doctors working for an "emergency doctors" committee.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Maghreb Committee Meeting in Tripoli

Subcommittee Ends Session

LD1909122288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1006 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Sep (JANA)—The Maghreb subcommittee for organization and structure, which is entrusted with drawing up the unionist project for the Greater Maghreb, ended its proceedings last night in the Grand Hotel in Tripoli.

The final session was attended by brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister; Brother Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Tunisian foreign minister; Brother Ahmed Osman, speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives; and Brother Mohamed Habetna Ould Sidi Haba, the Mauritanian information minister.

During the final session, an agreement was reached regarding the documents to be submitted to the Maghreb Committee, which was formed in the wake of the meeting of the Greater Maghreb countries in Algeria.

The subcommittee's report and the draft project of the structures of the establishment of the Greater Maghreb were also adopted.

During the closing session, the Maghreb delegations hailed the efforts made and which are still being made by the Great Jamahiriyah toward consolidating the Greater Maghreb unity toward the path of realizing overall Arab unity.

Economic Committee Ends Work

LD1909152388 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Algiers, Sep 19 (MAP)—The Maghreban Economic Commission wound up here Sunday [18 September] its works by the signing of a document which will be submitted to the meeting of the Inter-Maghreban Commission due in Rabat next October 24.

The document, which was signed by the heads of delegations of the five Maghreban countries, comprises practical proposals likely to materialize the economic integration of the Maghreb.

Heads of delegation expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the commission's meeting and noted the wide prospects which exist in Maghreban countries for the intensification of their economic cooperation and complementarity.

President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria had previously received the members of the Maghreban economic commission and called on them to carry on their task to bolster Maghreban cooperation and reduce Maghreban countries' food dependency and secure food self-sufficiency.

Meanwhile in Tripoli, the Maghreban commission in charge of organizational and structural issues wound up its works Sunday late in the night. During the meeting heads of the five delegations dealt with the report comprising the set of ideas and suggestions made by participants.

The commission adopted then the recommendations that will be submitted to the Inter-Maghreban Commission. Participants in the meeting were received Sunday by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya.

The financial and customs commission wound up its meetings Thursday in Morocco, while the information and education commission is expected to start its works in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on September 21. The social and human commission is expected to convene in Tunis, later.

The five commissions were set up by the Inter-Maghreban Commmission last July 13 and 14 in Algeria to discuss means to lay the basis of a Maghreban community.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP's Habash on UN Mandate, West Bank

LD1909130688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0850 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 19 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Dr. George Habash Monday said putting the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under UN mandate is an opportunity that he does not "very much bet on."

Speaking to local daily AL-ANBA', in a dispatch from Moscow, Habash said the UN General Assembly should condemn Israel for its deportation policy since the start of the Palestinian uprising.

Regarding the Palestinian state and government issue, Habash noted that his front does not totally refuse this issue in principle, as long as the state is established on basis of the Palestinian people's right and UN resolutions that stipulates self-determination right.

The government should not make concessions or obscure the PLO's role, Habash said, explaining "it should be a national government that has its clear political identity and does not contradict with charter and conditions of the PLO or its revolutionary ranks."

The PFLP's secretary general commented on the U.S. stance toward the Palestinian cause saying "the United States wants us to enter the international conference totally stripped off."

He explained, they want us to abandon struggle which it (the U.S.) calls "terrorism," recognise UN Resolution 242 and they want us "not to recognise Israel only, but also its right to exist," before the convocation of the conference.

Besides, they ignore PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's statements recognizing UN resolutions and want only the recognition of 242 which deals with the Palestinian question as a refugees' problem, he added.

On his talks in Moscow, Habash said he feels the Soviets are trying to evaluate every positive and negative point in every available option.

He said the Soviets, who yet have not officially issued a statement about the present Palestinian options, also try to put together and compromise those options and stress the importance of unity of the Arab and Palestinian stances.

Habash is leading a PFLP delegation on a visit to Moscow where they met with head of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry Vladimir Polyakov and other Soviet officials.

On Recognition of Israel

JN1909180988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash said amendment of the Palestine National Charter is not on the table and the establishment of a Palestinian state does not mean recognition of Israel.

In an interview with the weekly AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI, George Habash said the expected Palestinian state is a sovereign state and every state has the right to recognize or not recognize Israel.

Habash said he is opposed to political exploitation of the uprising because it has not yet reached its zenith.

Official Criticizes 'Slowness' in Decisionmaking

JN1909164388 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Sep 88 p 21

[Text] Tunis—A Palestinian official has expressed hope that the Palestinian factions that comprise the PLO will crystallize within a week their ideas they have been discussing in their meetings for the past 3 weeks.

In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, Na'im al-Ashhab, asistant secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, said the latest meeting, which was held Friday, was confined only to four factions:

Fatah, represented by Yasir 'Arafat; the DFLP, represented by its secretary general, Nayif Hawatimah; the PFLP, represented by its assistant secretary general, Abu 'Ali Mustafa; and the Palestinian Communist Party, represented by Al-Ashhab.

Al-Ashhab stressed that slowness in making a final decision is not a satisfactory phenomenon, especially since the PLO is approaching a fateful stage requiring increasingly clear ideas and thoughts.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources expressed the belief that the next meeting of the Palestinian leaderships, represented by PLO Executive Committee members, the PNC chairmanship, Fatah Central Committee members, representatives of other factions, and independent Palestinian figures, will discuss in particular the stand of the Islamic Resistance Movement-HAMAS inside the occupied Palestinian teritories.

This stand, according to the sources, requires adopting a position toward the movement if it does not stop what these sources described as "its irresponsible and isolated practices, which are remvoed from the democratic methods adopted by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising."

Algeria

Bendjedid Assesses Progress of Reforms

LD1909163688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The main national event took place at the Palace of the Nation where Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN party, chaired the meeting of the members of the governorates offices' coordinators in the presence of Politburo members, members of the government, and a number of higher officials from the party and the government. On this occasion, the president made an important instructive speech, details of which will directly be relayed by the radio correspondent at the Palace of the Nation:

[Correspondent] Dear listeners, may God's peace and benediction be upon you. The meeting was important, the head of state asserted, the goal being to assess the progress made during the last 2 years, such as the economic and agricultural reforms and the preparations waiting to be done by the party's grassroots, in addition to the developments being currently witnessed by the region. [passage omitted]

The head of state asserted that he was going to be very honest and rather harsh and said that the economic situation is difficult and the financial situation is difficult too, but the situation as a whole is not serious.

Concerning the party's sixth congress, the president said it is going to be convened at the beginning of December; its proceedings will stem from Algerian reality and previous experience.

The president talked about current topics and gave special emphasis to the efforts being exerted for the edification of the Great Arab Maghreb. He said we are unionist people; the national charter reaffirmed this point following its enrichment. Bilateral action has a role to play. The head of state dealt, in his speech, with the Algerian-Libyan document and asserted:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] We have agreed that this document will be put forward for discussion on 20 September, that is tomorrow. The reason behind this is that we were busy preparing the documents for the party's sixth congress. I believe preparing the party's sixth congress's documents will be completed on 20 or 25 September, but I am not sure. However, only regional meetings will have to be convened by then to gather the reports for the congress.

Thus, once the preparations for the party's sixth congress are completed the party's grassroots as well as citizens will have the opportunity to look at this document, which is a draft project. Such a document will be put forward for discussion in both Libya and Algeria. We are going to give enough time to militants and citizens alike to discuss it.

I would like you to understand me very well when I say both militants and citizens: We need the citizen's participation, we need the participation of the citizen and the militant alike. The militant's role is to influence, supervise, and organize. However, militants should open the door for the citizens and talk with any citizen who presents his views. We need opinions since this is a process that not only concerns the political leadership. Furthermore, it is a fateful issue that concerns the Algerian people, who have the right to express themselves freely and democratically. [end recording]

The president asserted that bilateral action contributes to multilateral action and added that he was optimistic with regard to the edification of the Great Arab Maghreb. Such an achievement will be completed soon, he asserted. The president talked about the existence of some problems, among which is the problem of Western Sahara. As far as this topic is concerned the president said Algeria has not been asked, nor would be, to abandon principles. He furthermore expressed hope that this problem would soon be settled.

He also talked about other Arab topics, particularly the Palestinian cause and asserted that it is paramount that the Palestinians take their decision freely: We support any such decision. Concerning the Gulf war, he expressed Algeria's happiness at the halting of the war and said that he does not think that any country will dare to shoulder the responsibility to start the war again. He also tackled relaxation of tension in Africa and Asia and elsewhere in the world.

Egypt

Ghali Leaves on 1-Day Trip to Rome 18 Sep

NC1809071988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Rome this morning on a 1-day official visit to Italy.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said the purpose of his visit to Rome is to hold talks with Italian officials on bilateral relations, the recent developments in the Middle East, and the European role in promoting the peace process and backing Egypt's positions at international economic institutions.

Comments on Talks

NC2009053288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2152 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Rome this evening after a 1-day visit to Italy.

Upon arrival, Dr Ghali said that while in Italy he held talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. During the discussions, he explained the Egyptian view

on Middle East Developments and Egypt's position regarding the Nonaligned Movement, Egyptian-Italian relations, and Egypt's relations with international financial establishments and organizations.

Dr Ghali said that his talks in Rome were extremely positive. He added he thanked Italy on Egypt's behalf for its contribution in the efforts to secure the release of Egyptian fishermen detained in Iran since 1983.

Dr Ghali said he would present a detailed report on the outcome of his talks in Italy to President Husni Mubarak.

Ghali Views Camp David Agreement Anniversary

NC1709145388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that constant work is needed to promote the peace process in the Middle East, adding that there will be no just, comprehensive, and lasting peace unless a settlement of the Palestinian issue is realized and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is guaranteed.

In a statement today on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David agreement, Dr Ghali said Egypt had hoped this anniversary would have been marked in an atmosphere of peace in the Middle East, in which the Palestinian people would enjoy their right to self-determination.

However, thanks to Israel's intransigence, its continuing occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and its repressive practices in contravention of all rules of international law and the principles of the United Nations, the Palestinian people continued to experience tragic conditions, which they reject and oppose through an overwhelming popular revolt.

'Abd al-Majid, Iraq's 'Aziz Discuss Negotiations

NC1809104188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran negotiations and bilateral relations.

Al-Baz, PLO Officials Discuss Peace Process

NC1809104988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today held a meeting with Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo. Developments in the Palestinian issue and efforts to promote the peace process were discussed during the meeting.

Israeli Rejection of 'Arafat Speech Viewed

JN1909162988 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Sep 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Hand Is Extended and Another Hand Is Withdrawn"]

[Text] The PLO has come closer to the formula of political rapprochement with Israel these days more than ever before. In his recent speech at the European parliament and his subsequent press statements, 'Arafat was able to touch Israel's raw nerve and sore wound, but with the intention of one who wants to soothe and cure.

Regrettably, 'Arafat's announcement—which agreed with much of what Israel used to call for and demand—was immediately and categorically rejected by Shamir's spokesman. 'Arafat announced acceptance of UN resolutions. He specifically announced acceptance of the controversial Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which entail recognition of Israel. He once again and more specifically asserted the PLO's readiness to accept the two resolutions if they are linked to the acceptance of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

'Arafat then acquiesced to what Israel, backed by a significant portion of international opinion, used to ask to alleviate the nervousness of those who still fear for Israel. He advocated several options, including an international mandate to protect Palestinian territory following the withdrawal of Israeli forces, or the proclamation of a Palestinian state under occupation and the formation of a provisional government.

'Arafat emphasized that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state will ultimately take place through guarantees acceptable to and enforced by the free international community—a democratic republic that is committed to human rights and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, or creed. Of course, there must be guarantees of good-neighborliness with Israel, including a commitment to abandoning what is referred to as terrorism.

Despite such willingness to explore all the horizons of a just peace, the natural tendency for a newborn state to be governed by international legality and to be committed to existing conventions and norms, and the fact that the new state will be a neighbor of an older country that is more experienced and much better armed, Israel immediately and wholly rejected 'Arafat's proposals.

The reasons for Israel's rejection suggest confusion, ill intentions, a desire to repel, and excessive obstinacy: "There is nothing new" in the proposals! The proposed state will be a threat to Israel! The proposed state intends to destroy Israel and occupy all its territory!

Some excuses!

UAE Deputy Prime Minister Begins Visit 19 Sep

NC1909101388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo today for an official 4-day visit. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, and a number of other ministers received him on his arrival.

Shaykh Hamdan expressed his satisfaction and that of the delegation accompanying him at visiting Egypt, which he described as his second home.

Israelis Need Permission To Sail in Waters

NC1709074888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Ahmad al-Misiri, Egypt's consul in Elat, has said that Israelis need permission from the Egyptian consulate to sail their yachts in Egyptian waters. The request for permission should define the reason for wanting to enter Egyptian waters, usually tourism, the consul said, adding that any person who enters Egyptian waters without this permission will be arrested and referred to Egyptian courts.

In a statement published in today's issue of AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the consul said that several encroachments have taken place recently and that Egyptian courts have passed several prison sentences in this connection.

Coast Guard Pursues Vessels Smuggling Drugs

NC1909131588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that on 18 September the Egyptian Coast Guard confronted a group of vessels, comprising a large boat and eight small launches, within territorial waters 9 miles north of the city of Al-'Arish. The vessels were laden with a large number of tires filled with drugs.

The Coast Guard had earlier received confirmed information that drug traffickers were attempting to smuggle about 5 tons of drugs off the northern coast between Al-'Arish and Shaykh Zuwayyid.

A reconnaissance helicopter monitored the vessels and issued a warning as soon as they entered territorial waters, telling them to head for the port of Al-'Arish. The launches, however, responded by firing at the aircraft. Coast Guard launches then pursued the smugglers, who fled after dumping their cargo of drugs in the sea.

Naval Coast Guard personnel seized one of launches with its crew within territorial waters and a search for the drugs is now under way in the area. The arrested smugglers are also being interrogated.

Libya

JANA: 'Zionist' Satellite Endangers Arabs

LD1909184588 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 19 Sep 88

["The Editor of Arab Affairs Comments on the Launch by the Zionists of a Spying Satellite" —JANA headline]

[Text] Occupied Palestine. Al-Fatih [September] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Zionist enemy launched today a spying satellite in the skies of the Arab nation.

The Zionist enemy radio which reported the news did not make any reference to the place of the spying satellite.

The editor of Arab affairs commented on this. He said although we are sure of the launch of this Zionist spying satellite and the propaganda acccompanying it in favour of the Zionists, it is part of the psychological war being carried out by the Zionists against the Arab nation and making them fear in a bid to force them to accept the policy of fait accompli and which proved its failure in the light of the outbreak of the stones revolution by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine shaking the armed Zionists with the most sophisticated American weapons and technology using only stones and petrol bombs.

Despite the launch of this spying satellite in the skies of the Arab nation and which without the strategic alliance between the Zionists and America it would not have taken place and that without the American Assistance the Zionists would not have been able to exist within the heart of the Arab nation until today.

The editor warned that the Arab nation is fully aware of the danger of this flying Zionist spy on its entity and the threat it poses to Arab national security.

The editor said that the Arab nation and news media must expose the objectives of this spying satellite and its dangers on the security of the Arabs and expose the hostile role of America against the Arab nation aimed at the entrenchment of Zionist existence inside the heart of the Arab homeland through the supply of advanced technology within the context of the stratigic alliance enabling the Zionists to expand at the expense of the Arab nation.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying that the Arabs are required today more than ever to face these serious challenges by hastening to mobilize joint Arab effort and employ it towards the unity of the Arab nation and thus the realisation of united Arab action able to confront and defeat the enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Maghreb Body Delegation

LD1909190888 Tripoli JANA in English 1739 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution, in the presence of Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Hunaydi, received the delegations of the Arab Maghreb countries in the Sub Committee of Organisation, set up by the Supreme Commission of the Maghreb formed following the meeting of the leaders of the five Arab Maghreb countries in Algiers on 25th Al-Sayf [June] 1988.

The Maghreb Sub Committee for Organisation is charged with the task of laying the foundations for the structures of the Arab Maghreb and the drafting of a draft charter stipulating the general headings and lines to embody this structure.

The delegations consist of the following: Ahmed Osman, the president of the Moroccan parliament. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the Politburo of the FLN and minister of Foreign Affairs in sisterly Algeria. Abdelhamid Escheikh, the member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs in sisterly Tunisia. Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba, the minister of information in sisterly Mauritania. Jadallah Azzuz Attalhi, the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau in Great Jamahiriyah.

The heads of the delegations submitted to the leader of the revolution a report on the progress of the work of the committee and a summary on the ideas and proposals put forward by various countries.

PLO's 'Arafat Lauds Al-Qadhdhafi Efforts

LD1709191588 Tripoli JANA in English 1706 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his appreciation of the continued efforts being exerted by the leader of the revolution towards the unity of the groups of the Palestinian revolution.

In a statement to the French international radio station, Yasir 'Arafat lauded the massive efforts made by the leader of the revolution in bringing closer viewpoints in this context and his sponsorship of Palestinian intensive dialogue which took place amongst various Palestinian revolution factions during the festivities of the 19th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Paper Cites Envoy on Mediation With Egypt

JN1709130288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 17 (SUNA)—The mediation efforts between Egypt and Libya carried out by Yemen, Tunisia and Sudan, were frozen following a new rise of tension between the two countries, the special envoy of Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told the daily "AL-SUDANI" here issued today.

The Libyan envoy denied the existence of any border disputes between Libya and Egypt pointing out that the disputable points between the two countries are the questions of unity". [no opening quotes as received]

"Libya is seeking conclusive unity with Egypt, while the Egyptian leadership has refused such kind of unity" the envoy elaborated.

Libya is still committed to the resolutions of Baghdad conference" [no opening quotes as received] the Libyan envoy said, confirming that Libya will restore its relations with Egypt whenever the causes led [as received] to the severing relations were removed.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had, two weeks ago, reached a formula of reconciliation between Libya and Egypt according to which a Libyan envoy will leave for Cairo.

Congress Resolution on Arab Rights Issued

LD1909145288 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The General People's Congress has issued a resolution on the rights of Arab citizens in the Great Jamahiriyah. This resolution is based on the contents of the great green document of human rights in the era of the masses and is in implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses considering the Great Jamahiriyah as the land of all Arabs.

The resolution specifies that Arab citizens resident in the Great Jamahiriyah should enjoy all the rights and be subject to all the commitments of their fellow Libyan Arabs. This includes, for instance, entry to the Jamahiriyah, residence in it, travel out of it, work in it, obtaining permits to practice industrial and commercial jobs, professions, and crafts, establishing cooperatives or participating in them, ownership, benefitting from agricultural land, and performing national service.

The resolution also specifies that Arabs in the Jamahiriyah should enjoy their rights and commitments to the duties specified in the resolution in accodance with the same conditions, regulations, and standards applied to their fellow Libyan Arabs in conformity with current legislation.

People's Conferences To Convene 20 Sep
LD1809105388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli [No date as received]—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress issued decision No 97 for 1988 inviting the basic people's conferences to convene their first ordinary session for 1988 as of Tuesday, 20 September.

The first session of the basic people's conferences will be devoted to discussing local issues and to following up the measures taken to carry out the decisions adopted by the people's conferences during their previous session. It will also be devoted to laying down an agenda for the second session.

JANA has learned that the first session this year will discuss many local and pan-Arab issues.

Socialist-Israeli Rapprochement Examined
LD1709124388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Sep (JANA)—AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, which is published by the Revolutionary Committees Movement, today published an article entitled: A Stab in the Back. It said:

We have forgotten that the basis of the Zionist entity—from Ben Gurion to Levi Askhol, to Moshe Dayan, to Golda Meir, to Menachem Begin, to tens of others—came to the Arab land of Palestine from the countries that formed Warsaw Pact after World War II.

We also have forgotten that the countries of the socialist group hastened to recognize the Zionist entity only hours after its declaration in 1948, and that these countries are the ones that supplied it with hundreds of thousands of Zionist settlers who, supported by the Western military machine and Jewish money, usurped the lands of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs, massacring and dispersing them to the north, east, and south.

We also have forgotten that the creators of this racist, fascist, Zionist entity, which is based on myth and nonsense attributed to the Bible and essentially contradicts Marxism, were able to fool the communist parties and the leaders of this socialist bloc for a long time during the forties by convincing them that this bastard entity is a socialist model, an island of proletarian struggle in a sea of capitalist Western protectorates.

In addition, we believed what was said about Marx renouncing his Judaism and mocking it when he became an internationalist. We also have forgotten that the communist parties in the Arab world, which actually were formed by Jews, later adopted a suspicious stance on the establishment of the Zionist entity, as they neither opposed nor publicly supported it.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH added that we forgot all this and pushed it out of our minds when we later found a correct assessment of the pan-Arab liberation movement and the Arab revolution's strength by the socialist camp. We felt it in a practical way when that camp moved to support 'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt and the revolutions in Algeria, Iraq, and North and South Yemen. We witnessed the socialist camp's honorable stands after the setback of 1967, when all the countries of that camp, with the exception of Romania, adopted a collective, vanguard, and honorable stand by siding with the Arab nations and severing all their relations with the Zionist enemy.

In fact, apart from being politically just, that position was ideologically correct and in line with Marxism-Leninism. That racist entity, linked with the wheel of Western capitalism, stained with hatred and with anti-humanist fanaticism, and propelled by U.S. imperialist power and the most modern of its arsenal of weapons, that Zionist entity cannot have any relation or tie with the socialist camp.

On the contrary, the enmity of the socialist camp toward the Zionist entity logically must not be less than the enmity of the Arab nation because the enmity of the Arab nation toward the expansionist Zionist idea is a nationalist enmity the essence of which is struggle for existence, while the enmity of the socialist camp toward the Zionist idea is one that should stem from the Marxist-Leninist ideological program itself, and from the heart of that camp's socialist beliefs.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH expressed surprise at the change that has occured in the position of some countries of the socialist bloc vis-a-vis the revival and resumption of relations with the Zionist entity.

The visit to Poland by the Zionist terrorist Shimon Peres, who leads the Labor Party, and the contacts between senior officials in the socialist camp and Zionist terrorists are, according to our understanding of Marxism-Leninism, nothing but a confusing riddle. This makes us wonder about the contradiction between an ideology that calls for the liberation of peoples and animosity toward imperialism, and the stances of officials in the socialist camp who have been meeting those enemies of freedom and agents of imperialism, the Zionist terrorists.

If this means a recognition by the socialist camp of the validity of establishing entities on religious and ethnic bases, why is that confined to the Zionist entity? And why is it not extended to support the Irish Republican Army, for example?

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH said: From a position of friendship toward the socialist camp, we inquire about the benefit gained by the comrades from relations with an imperialist lackey entity that has admitted openly being a part of the U.S. military strategy and has assembled Jericho-2 and Jericho-3 missiles able to hit the Soviet Union's southern border.

What benefit is it to the comrades in the socialist camp to ignore the will and sentiment of more than 200 million Arabs, led by the Arab revolutionary forces?

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH emphasized that, in fighting the Zionist entity which is backed by the U.S. military arsenal, the Arab revolutionary forces are simultaneously fighting both nationally and internationally—nationally because it is a battle over its existence, and internationally because the Arab revolutionary forces believe in international revolution and that a weakening of any of the rings of the revolutionary chain in any part of the world constitutes a danger for the remainder of the rings.

These relations between the socialist camp and the Zionist entity can only play the role of weakening the world liberation movement and all strugglers for justice on this earth. Indeed, these relations are a kind of unjustifiable free honor for those who made and consolidated the foundations of the violence the West calls terrorism.

The newspaper said that those Zionists were the ones who occupied a land and turned a people into refugees. Consequently, they were the cause of the wave of violence and terrorism that will end only with the end of that Zionist entity, which represents a time bomb that one day will be responsible for a third world war because of the nuclear weapons it stores.

The Arab revolutionary forces—which are carrying the burden of confronting U.S. imperialism, struggling with Zionism, and confronting Arab reaction inside the greater homeland—feel that they have been stabbed in the back and that the renewed relations between the socialist camp and the Zionist enemy will only invigorate the Zionists and strengthen the reactionary wave linked with imperialist circles.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH stressed that the new stance of the socialist states in establishing complete relations with the Zionists will cause embarrassment for all progressives and will prompt the Arab masses to review many matters they had considered firm historical facts. It emphasized, in concluding its article, that the temporary existence of 4 million Zionists on Arab soil never should be compared to the relations, interests, and principles that should have pulled the socialist states toward the 100 million Arabs on this soil and who are determined to live on it with honor.

Sudan

Defense Minister on Chadian Opposition Forces

JN1709183288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 17—SUNA—A Chadian high level delegation is due here during the upcoming days to hold talks with the officials here on pushing forward the bilateral relations in all prospects, Defense Minister General (RTD) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil said here today.

The talks will also cover the situation of Ibn Oumar forces, a Chadian armed opposition wing currently stationing in Darfur region in western Sudan, the defense minister said.

Gen. Khalil, member of Sudan's delegation which visited Chad last week said the delegation emphasized to the Chadian side Sudan's commitment to the principle of goodneighboring.

On the forces of Ibn Oumar Gen. Khalil said the delegation had briefed the Chadian officials on the conjunctures accompanied the entry of these forces to Sudan and the measures adopted by the government for containing the situation.

On the other hand a reliable source at the Foreign Ministry said the Chadian Government had expressed satisfaction over the visit paid by the Sudanese delegation and also expressed readiness to contribute positively in overcoming all problems between Chad and Sudan.

Paper Urges Neutrality in Chad-Libya Conflict

JN1809114588 SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (SUNA)—In its editorial today AL-AYYAM discusses Chadian-Sudanese relations. The paper emphasizes remarks made by Foreign Minister Husayn Abu Salih in which he asserted that the delegation he led in the talks with Chadian officials has achieved great success in removing the misunderstandings that resulted from numerous situations. Abu Salih said he explained to the Chadians that Sudan is not biased in favor of any side in the Libyan-Chadian conflict, nor does Sudan allow its territory to be used as a springboard for forces hostile to Chad, nor does Sudan want to interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbors. It respects the inviolability of Chadian territory.

In its editorial AL-AYYAM says Sudan has (?suffered) a great deal from the Chadian war and its consequences, which in turn has had a negative effect on security and stability in Sudan's western region.

AL-AYYAM says talks with the Libyan side are necessary in order to reduce tension in the area and prevent the infiltration of any anti-Chadian forces into Sudan.

AL-AYYAM adds that if Sudan succeeds in its talks with Chad and Libya then it will be in a position to act as mediator between Chad and Libya. The paper maintains that the conflict between Chad and Libya does not serve Africa's interests but allows the infiltration of foreign influence into that part of the continent on the pretext that the area is a volatile flashpoint.

AL-AYYAM adds: If Sudan continues such efforts and maintains complete neutrality in the conflict then it will be qualified to play a fundamental role in resolving the existing problems and restoring peace to the region.

AL-AYYAM continues: The restoration of cultural, commercial, and economic relations with Chad will eliminate the vestiges of the past, bring back normal relations, and open wider horizons for Sudanese efforts to resolve the problem.

Non-Muslim African Parties Walk Out of Assembly
NC2009102888 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Sept 20 (AFP)—A bill to bring in new Islamic laws to replace those imposed by ousted President Ja'far Numayri in 1983, was submitted to the Sudan Constituent Assembly (parliament) late Monday prompting an immediate walkout by African parties from the non-Moslem south.

Eliaba James Surur, [name as received], leader of the Union of African Parties from the South (UAPS), said his parliamentary group would boycott the debate on the shari'a (Islamic law) bill.

Mr. Eliaba said the bill would bring about a split in the Sudanese nation.

He said the UAPS would continue to lobby for "just" laws so as to preserve "national unity and equal rights for all citizens".

The Constituent Assembly was not empowered to pass the bill in the absence of the UAPS group, he said.

Southern parties, representing Christians and followers of African traditional religions, have threatened to withdraw their support from the national unity government of Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi if the Islamic bill goes through.

Southern "legalist" parties hold five portfolios in the national unity government set up last May in a bid to end the regional strife. [passage omitted]

Paper Interviews Equatoria Region Governor
PM2009090188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 5

[Interview with Morris Lawiya, leader of the SAPCO Party and governor of the Equatoria Region, by Idris al-Qadi in Juba; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Qadi] The war in the south constitutes Sudan's main problem. Everyone is trying to stop the bloodshed. In your capacity as governor of the Equatoria Region and leader of a major party in the south, SAPCO [Sudanese African People's Congress], what peace moves have you made? What is your attitude toward the rebel movement?

[Lawiya] The war claims scores of lives every day. Some die of starvation or sickness and from rebel bullets as a result of the conflict between the rebels and the Sudanese Armed Forces. This is in addition to the destruction of the infrastructures needed for development. The south is on the verge of complete destruction. That is why we, the southern Sudanese parties, have agreed within the transitional charter on the need to hold a constitutional national conference this year. All parties and politicians of the north share the same view. John Garang must know that all parties want a dialogue. Let us sit at the negotiating table in order to reach an agreement.

We in SAPCO have raised many proposals in support of unity among the southern forces in order to help the regime. We suggested that Sudan be ruled on a federal basis, that its regions be transformed into provinces as a solution for the problem of authority, and that southerners participate in central power via a fair number of positions that carry weight matching up to their population. We also demanded that development be given precedence in the regions suffering most from backwardness and that national wealth be distributed fairly among the various regions.

We in the Equatorial government condemn the northern voices calling for separating the south from the north, claiming that the continuation of the civil war is the cause. I must emphasize that John Garang does not represent the south. He just represents a tiny part of the south. Even John Garang himself does not call for separation. In fact, southerners are more committed to Sudanese unity.

[Al-Qadi] The Council of Ministers is currently studying a plan concerning the application of Islamic laws as an alternative to the 1983 September laws. The new thing about these laws is that they will be applied on a regional basis. Do you support this idea?

[Lawiya] According to the principles of our party, we repudiate any laws based on religion for fear that they could cause major sedition. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadi] Equatorians adopt a hard-line position and insist on the idea of partitioning the south into three regions, thus rejecting unity of the south. Why?

[Lawiya] We reject the idea that the south should return as one region. The prepartition period witnessed the Dinka tribe's total control over the south and its occupation of all strategic positions in government, police, prisons, civil service. In addition, it ignored the other tribes, especially the Equatoria tribes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadi] The Equatoria Region has several problems with two neighboring states, namely Kenya and Uganda. Accusations are being exchanged among you via the opposition forces in both countries. What is the true situation?

[Lawiya] Last year the Ugandan Government accused the central Sudanese government of supporting the Ugandan opposition movement. When the central government refuted that, they issued a statement indicating

that it was the Equatoria government which was both training and arming opposition elements. A meeting was held between us and Uganda and our position was explained. They were convinced of our evidence. Then we accused them of supporting the rebel movement led by John Garang, as they received him officially and facilitated the rebels' movement across their territory to plant mines along the Sudanese-Ugandan borders. Uganda denied its support for the rebel movement. [passage omitted]

As for relations with Kenya, they are still tense. During one of my visits to Kenya last year before I became governor, I saw with my own eyes the leaders of the popular movement moving freely inside the Kenyan capital. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Press Statement on Ben Ali Visit to France

LD1709033388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Following the state visit by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who is the first head of state to be officially received since President Mitterrand was re-elected, the Tunisian delegation issued the following press statement:

At the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand, president of the Republic of France, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali paid a state visit to France from 12 to 15 September 1988. The president of the Republic was given an excellent and warm welcome, which reflected the friendly nature and depth of bilateral relations.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had several tete-a-tete talks with President Francois Mitterrand, during which relations between Tunisia and France were reviewed, besides questions of common concern.

The president received National Assembly Speaker Laurent Fabius, Premier Michel Rocard, Economy Minister Pierre Beregovoy, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, and Interior Minister Pierre Joxe. The president was received before a large audience at the Senate by Alain Poher, president of the Senate, and at the town hall palace of Paris by Mr Jacques Chirac and the municipal council.

Talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, which shows the excellent quality of bilateral relations. The talks gave the two sides the opportunity to effectively (?bring) their will to develop cooperation in a harmonious form.

The two presidents raised [the question] of efforts to build the Maghreb, relations between African countries which have a common border, developments in the Palestinian issue, the necessity of convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all sides concerned, and also problems related to international peace and security.

Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Francois Mitterrand noted the identity of their views regarding questions of common concern.

At the economic level, it was agreed to give new momentum to relations to support the development work carried out by Tunisia and to help overcome conjunctural difficulties. The two countries agreed to study and conceive a new form of cooperation which is mainly based on controlling new technologies and propping up private French investments in Tunisia.

A program of cooperation between the two sides in the audio-visual field was set up. A joint working group was formed to put these ideas into concrete form.

President Francois Mitterrand honored with his presence the meeting between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian community in France. President Mitterrand spoke of the role which the Tunisian community can play in bringing the two countries closer and France's determination to guarantee peace and dignity for the Tunisian community in France. [passage omitted]

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Tunis 18 Sep

LD1909084688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 18 Sep JANA—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived today in Tunis on a visit to sisterly Tunisia.

Staff Maj Jallud was given an official welcome on his arrival at Tunis-Carthage International Airport where he was met by Brother Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister; Brother Habib Ammar, the interior minister; Brother Abdallah Kalal; the secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally; the Governor of Tunis; and the mayor of the capital. [passage omitted]

Staff Maj Jallud is accompanied in this visit by the Libyan commissioner to sisterly Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Received by Ben Ali

LD1909160888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received today at noon in the presidential palace in Carthage Staff Major Ahmad 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. The meeting was

attended by Hedi Baccouche, prime minister; Habib Ammar, minister of state for interior; and 'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi, Libyan high commissioner [al-Mandub al-Sami] to Tunisia.

JANA Notes Meeting

LD1909190088 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Fatih [September] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at 12 noon today Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud at the Presidential Palace in Tunis.

Present at the reception were hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of Tunisia, Habib Ammar the minister of state in charge of the interior and the general delegate of Great Jamahiriyah, to Tunisia.

After the meeting, Major Jallud made a press statement. He said "I was pleased to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the talks were good and fraternal coming from the fraternal spirit and the ground created by the historic change on 7th November and now we speak the same language and make the same analysis and have the same problems, we speak common language and use the same terms. My belief strengthened further that there are ample perspectives for historic action between the great Al-Fatih revolution and the 7th November, for geography before the 7th November used to separate the two neighbouring countries and there was no political will. But now and after the 7th November the geography is complete as well as the political will which created the ground and enabled the Libyan Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia to start a historic travel to unite the Arab nation and Islam and realising freedom and progress."

He added this era is the era of blocs and as I have already pointed out the Tunisian Arab people have civilised and historic resources and our enemies know that and that is why they are attempting to isolate and alienate the Arab people of Tunisia from their roots. Our enemies know the role of the Arab people in Tunisia before and during Islam. I believe now that the 7th November broke this shackle which used to fetter this people so as the Arab masses spearheaded by the president and his brothers to start this historic journey and I am optimistic and content that a historic action is awaiting the two sisterly countries.

Islamic Tendency Movement Leader Returns

LD1709010988 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Abdelfattah Mourou returned to Tunis this afternoon on a plane from Geneva. As we reported yesterday, the secretary general of the Islamic Tendency Movement, the MTI, is returning from exile. He was sentenced a year ago to 20 years imprisonment along with other members of his movement, some of whom also went into exile.

Most of these activists have either returned or are in the process of returning to Tunisia, such as MTI officials Hamadi Jebali [who returned on 13 September] and Mohamed Hachemi Hamdi, who returned on the same plane as Mourou today. [passage omitted]

Ready To Change Party Name

LD2009101588 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] [Announcer] Here is a statement from the Islamicist leader Abdelfattah Mourou, who returned to Tunis without hindrance last week after 2 years in exile and a death sentence passed in absentia. His party, the Islamic tendency Movement, MTI, now wants to play along with democratization undertaken by President Ben Ali. Here is Abdelfattah Mourou:

[Begin recording] We are waiting for the legalization of the MTI and the release of the remaining activists from prison and we expect there to be a change within the country's institutions toward democratization, public freedoms, and human rights. [end recording]

[Announcer] Abdelfattah Mourou really wants to play the game. The proof is that if political parties with religious connotations are prohibited, then he is ready to change the name of the MTI:

[Begin Mourou recording] After understanding there is no longer any law against the MTI as a political party from the president, we are ready to change our name, our title; this is a secondary matter and we are ready to it. [end recording]

Intra-Gulf

GCC Official on Gulf War, U.S. 'Campaign'

JN1609085788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Sayf ibn Hashil al-Maskari, GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs, has stated that GCC countries will intensify contacts in the future—particularly during the UN General Assembly session—to support the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations in reaching an agreement on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

In an interview with WAM, Al-Maskari said that the GCC foreign ministers will intensify contacts in New York to achieve this objective, whether through bilateral meetings with foreign ministers—particularly foreign ministers of the UN permanent member countries—or through collective meetings, namely, the scheduled meeting between the GCC foreign ministers and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on 26 September. [passage omitted]

Al-Maskari denied that the GCC Ministerial Council had discussed at its recent meeting the question of Iraq and Iran joining the GCC. The GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs said that while GCC countries want security and stability in the region and cooperation among the countries in the region in the interests of all, the GCC Ministerial Council did not discuss the membership of Iraq and Iran in the GCC.

Answering a question on whether there is an inclination for the YAR to join the GCC, Al-Maskari said that the GCC statutes had defined the countries that are members of the council and there is no intention, at least at the present time, of changing the configuration of the GCC. [passage omitted]

On the U.S. Senate's decision to impose sanctions on Iraq and its accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Kurds, Al-Maskari said that he regrets this decision and the Western countries' stands against Iraq.

In his interview with WAM, Al-Maskari said: We wish these countries and quarters would adopt such stands toward the Israeli repressive measures against the Palestinian people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said he believes the Zionist lobby in the United States is behind this campaign as some form of psychological warfare against Iraq, which has become a regional military and political force to be reckoned with, affirming that world Zionism does not want any prominent Arab force to emerge in the region.

Kuwait

Iranian Charge Sees Minister, Discusses Visas

LD1909171288 Tehran IRNA In English 1650 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Issues relevant to visas and residence permits of Iranian citizens in Kuwait were discussed in a meeting between Iranian charge d'afffaires Mohammad-Hoseyn Foroughi and the Shaykhdom's Social Affairs and Labor Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Sabah in Kuwait Sunday.

Foroughi, in the meeting, called on Kuwait to provide more facilities for Iranian workers there, and exploit their expertise in different fields.

In reply, Shaykh Nasir promised to provide visas for new Iranian teachers. He also expressed his country's keenness for expansion of relations with Iran in various fields.

On Persian Gulf Minesweeping

LD1909181788 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept. 19, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affairs to Kuwait in a meeting with the Shaykhdom's Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir al-Sabah informed him of the Islamic Republic's decision to sweep the Persian Gulf of mines.

The Iranian official said Iran would welcome Persian Gulf states' cooperation for clearing the waterway of mines.

Foroughi, in a separate meeting with Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, said the Islamic Republic had accepted the U.N. chief's (Javier Perez de Cuellar) invitation to continue peace talks in New York.

Iran considers Resolution 598 and Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan as the best framework for peace talks, which can guarantee a lasting, just and honorable peace, said Foroughi.

Iraq's 'Aziz Delivers Saddam Message to Amir

JN2009120088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Sep—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, received here today President Saddam Husayn's envoy Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Tariq 'Aziz stated to the INA correspondent in Kuwait following the meeting that he conveyed an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

He added that the message deals with bilateral brotherly relations, developments in the negotiations with Iran to achieve peace, the current Arab situation, and issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and 'Asim Ya'qub Yusuf, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait.

PDRY

USSR Equipment for Building Pipeline Arrives

JN1809153388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Aden—The first consignment of USSR equipment to build the first oil pipeline has arrived in the port of Al-Mukalla, the second ranking PDRY port. This equipment will be used to build a 220-km pipeline between oil exploration sites and the exportation area in Balhaf on the coast northeast of the capital, Aden.

The Soviet ship "Korobokov" [name as published] carried this consignment of pipes according to an agreement on oil exploration and exploitation concluded between the PDRY and the USSR.

Communique Issued on Talks With CSSR

EA1709094888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Democratic Yemen and Socialist Czechoslovakia have confirmed that relations between the two countries are developing successfully and deepening in all fields. They have expressed their constant wish to develop friendly relations in many fields and seek new and suitable forms of economic cooperation.

In a press communique issued on the visit to the CSSR by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the [YSP] Central Committee and foreign minister, the Czechoslovak side praised Democratic Yemen's efforts to develop and strengthen relations with the northern part of the homeland and restore total Yemeni unity on a democratic basis.

The two sides welcomed the cessation of the war between Iraq and Iran and the speeding-up of (?peace) talks between the two countries under the auspices of the UN secretary general. In their evaluation of the situation in the Middle East, the two sides stressed the importance of activating the peace process and setting just conditions for a solution.

They called for political steps to accelerate the holding of an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices. It will be attended by an adviser [as heard] and by representatives of all parties concerned, including the PLO—legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people [words indistinct].

They expressed full support for the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. They condemned the terrorist, suppressive methods of the Israelis against Palestinian citizens.

On world issues, the two sides agreed that international efforts to achieve disarmament have been reflected [word indistinct] on the international atmosphere and the achievement of the necessary conditions for solving complicated regional disputes. They expressed (?confidence) that positive changes in the international situation would deepen the process of disarmament. [passage indistinct]

Referring to the situation in Europe, the Yemeni side expressed support for socialist Czechoslovakia's initiative to establish a line of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations between the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO alliance, was proposed by the CPCZ general secretary.

The two sides also stressed that the connection between disarmament and development was important. They stressed the importance of creating an international climate conducive to social and economic progress by reducing tension and taking tangible steps toward disarmament.

The two sides also expressed solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America for freedom, independence, social progress, and the right to self-determination.

Saudi Arabia

Pads for PRC Missiles Under Construction

LD1909203188 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 2000 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Saudi Arabia is in the process of building launching pads for Chinese medium-range missiles. This is shown on pictures taken by a civilian Swedish-French satellite.

The Chinese missiles are being deployed in the central part of Saudi Arabia and can be fitted with nuclear warheads. They can reach targets in Israel, the southern Soviet Union, and northwest Africa.

Iraq's 'Aziz Delivers Saddam Message to Fahd

LD1909231488 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his office in Al-Salam Palace on 19 September Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed a message to the king from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and 'Abd al-Wahab al-Sabbagh, Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Jeddah earlier. He was met at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Salim Sunbul, the Foreign Ministry's representative in the western region; a representative from royal protocol; and the Iraqi ambasador to the Kingdom.

Departs 20 Sep

LD2009084288 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation left King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah this morning following a visit during which he conveyed a message from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd 'ibn al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Jordanian Envoy, Message

JN1709093388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a letter from Jordan's monarch King Husayn on bilateral relations, ways to bolster them, and issues of common interest.

Dr 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, president of the Jordan University, conveyed the message to Shaykh Zayid during a meeting this morning. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the president's office; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Zuhayr Sakkijah, Jordan's ambassador to the UAE.

Delegation Leaves for IPU Sofia Conference

JN1609172088 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Dubayy Sept 16 (GNA)—A UAE Federal National Council (FNC) delegation led by FNC Speaker Hilal Ahmad Lutah, left here today for Sofia, Bulgaria, to take part in the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) due to open there tomorrow.

The FNC delegation prepared four working papers on Israel's brutal actions against the Palestinian uprising in occupied territories, a call for intensifying international efforts to bring to complete success in [as received] the Iraq-Iran negotiations to achieve peace and stability in the Gulf region.

The papers to be presented to the weeklong IPU conference call for implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 and supporting efforts aimed at holding an international Middle East peace conference, to be participated by [as received] the Palestine Liberation Organisation—PLO—sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Official Discusses OPEC Affairs, Quotas

JN1609173688 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 16 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) today welcomed a planned meeting of OPEC's price monitoring committee and called for a production and price strategy.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, also urged cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers in remarks marking the 28th anniversary of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"The price panel's meeting comes amid changes and contradictions in the oil market," he told the AMIRATES NEWS AGENCY. "This should prompt OPEC to force a production and price strategy in which all members feel the justice of decisions, adhere to allocated quotas and comply with OPEC consensus that serves the interests of all."

Shaykh Khalifah said current circumstances in the oil market should prompt cooperation among producers inside and outside OPEC to prevent a decline in oil prices. "Such a decline could lead to adverse consequences not in the interest of both OPEC and non-OPEC states," he said.

But he expressed confidence that OPEC would be able to overcome the current crisis through "scientific and calculated decisions." Shaykh Khalifah said reports about violations of quotas by OPEC members were mere accusations.

"Such unjustified accusations are designed to negatively influence the oil market as part of pressures to undermine the price system, spark divisions among OPEC members, wrest its initiative in the oil market and completely destroy its role since it is one of the most significant accomplishments of the developing nations," he said.

He reiterated the UAE's support for OPEC's unity and cohesion and said the UAE would continue efforts in this regard. "Our firm oil policy, laid down by His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, since OPEC was founded, calls for defending OPEC, safeguarding its achievements and working for coordination between all oil producers inside and outside OPEC to reach a wise oil policy guaranteeing the interests of all," he said.

But he added: "If a country sacrifices for OPEC's unity and stability, that does not mean it continues to pay alone... we have many examples in this respect. [no end quotes as received]

He noted that the UAE has repeatedly called for preserving OPEC as a group protecting the economies of the developing countries and has made clear that this goal required equal sacrifices.

"Sacrifices should be shared by all in order to counter pressures on the organisation, restore stability to the oil market and defend the price and value of this vital commodity (oil)," he said. "The UAE is bent on exerting its efforts and playing its role with responsibility to consolidate OPEC and stabilize the oil market," he added.

Saddam Husayn Discusses Shatt al-'Arab Diversion

JN1909131688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of military field commanders.

They discussed the possibility of changing the course of Shatt al-'Arab and the possibility of demobilizing some draftees and reservists in phases unless there are developments in the military situation.

The meeting was attended by General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense, and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

Foreign Minister Holds News Conference 19 Sep

JN1909165488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has once again warned the Iranian regime that Iraq has 1,000 cards to pressure Iran if the regime imagines that it can use the issue of clearing Shatt al-'Arab as a card to pressure Iraq.

In a news conference this morning attended by correspondents of Arab, foreign, and national radios and television networks as well as news agencies, newspapers, and magazines, the foreign minister said he warned the Iranians during the direct negotiations in Geneva that their insistence on keeping Shatt al-'Arab inappropriate for navigation will not be a pressure card against Iraq.

In the news conference, attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Shatt al-'Arab has been Iraqi and should remain so because this is a historical, logical, legal, and just issue. He stressed that Iraq adheres to its legitimate right to free navigation in both the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. He said Iraq cannot agree to incomplete freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf as part of the cease-fire.

Answering a question on whether Iraq has been subjected to pressure during the direct negotiations with Iran, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: So far we have not been subjected to any pressure, and no one can pressure Iraq because it is an independent country on the political, military, and economic levels. Iraq defended its sovereignty, dignity, and its citizens' lives for 8 full years using its intrinsic capabilities and its people's determination. The reports about Iraq being subjected to pressure have deluded the Iranians so they did not agree to what they should agree upon regarding cease-fire at sea, freedom of navigation, and clearing Shatt al-'Arab, since they imagine there are pressures being exerted on Iraq.

In his news conference, Tariq 'Aziz pointed to the unjust campaign against Iraq. He said: We sensed that this planned, deliberate campaign, which began after the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, was aimed at distorting Iraq's stand and placing it in an atmosphere of pressure. This campaign prompted Iranians to maintain their illogical, illegal stand. There is a clear Israeli interest in not ending the war between Iraq and Iran. Both Israel and world Zionism have employed all their material, political, and intelligence capabilities to perpetuate this war. Israeli-Iranian relations are known in this regard.

Asked how Iraq will react should Iran persist in its present position, Tariq 'Aziz said there will be no change in the Iraqi position, as we are morally and politically committed to the cease-fire, noting that no agreement exists to regulate the cease-fire. He stressed that Iraq is committed to UN Security Council Resoloution No 598 and to peace, for which it will strive as it has done for the past 8 years. Iran will have to answer for the consequences of its obstinacy, the foreign minister said.

Tariq 'Aziz said Iran did not accept the cease-fire resolution out of conviction but as a result of its defeat on the battlefield. The Iranian regime is, therefore, not serious about achieving a lasting, comprehenisve peace with Iraq. This tendency has found expression in Iran's illogical, illegal posture at the direct talks in Geneva, added the minister.

Tariq 'Aziz was asked about why the Iranian regime should cling to the 1975 agreement. The minister said that in its relations with Iraq, Iran has consistently violated agreements, namely the (Yarzen), (Irdrum) and (Zahab) agreements as well as the one signed in Algiers in 1975. After securing and consolidating priviliges under each agreement, Iran violated the pact, fomented trouble, and committed aggression against Iraq. It pressured Iraq and called for a new agreement.

The minister said the 1975 agreement was no exception. While enjoying privileges conferred by the agreement—namely the Shatt al-'Arab down the middle—Iran refused to abide by the other provisions of the pact, namely the return of Iraqi territory and noniterference in its internal affairs.

From the time the Iranian regime came to power up to 18 July 1988, not one Iranian official made a statement to the effect that he honored the agreement. But now after their crushing defeat, Iran has for the first time discovered the 1975 agreement. They made the discovery 10 years after they came to power, 8 years after the war began, and after 10 years of meddling in Iraq's domestic affairs and conquering its territory.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that the rulers of Iran, who had killed the agreement and persisted in killing it throughout 10 years of their policy of aggression and expansion, are not free to kill agreements and then resurrect them from their graves whenever they please.

Answering a question on the reasons Iraq rejected transferring the direct talks with Iran to New York, Tariq 'Aziz said: We have political, security, and practical reasons. I explained these reasons to the UN secretary general personally during our telephone conversation on 11 September when I was at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. I also explained the reasons to his personal representative, Ambassador Eliasson, and to the ambassadors of the permanent member states of the Security Council.

'Aziz said that as a practical matter, the Iraqi delegation cannot enter into sensitive and complex negotiations in a city that is as far from Baghdad as New York. The negotiations, he said, require the foreign minister to contact his president and government, while the time difference and distance between Baghdad and New York hampers such contacts. From the political and security point of view, the Iraqi delegation is not prepared to hold negotiations in a city from which an unjust campaign is being launched against Iraq. Therefore, we chose Geneva, where UN presmises are located. The time difference is suitable for contacting our country's leaders to brief them on the progress of negotiations and receive instructions. I believe that is our right.

Tariq 'Aziz lauded the Arab stand in support of Iraq. He said: The Arab nation has shown solidarity in the stage of armed struggle against aggression through the communiques and resolutions issued by Arab summits and the Arab League Council. Arab solidarity was also manifested on the practical, political, military, economic, and media levels. Arab solidarity is still being manifested after the cease-fire.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Aziz talked about the connection between the U.S.-Zionist campaign against Iraq and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory. He said: Zionist forces in the world seek to exploit any occasion to divert attention from the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian Arab people and the uprising—the objective of the campaign.

'Aziz asserted that the escalating 10-month-old Palestinian uprising will continue with all vigor and human and popular vitality until the Palestinian people gain their full rights. He said Iraq does not fear such a campaign, which will not obstruct its peace and reconstruction program.

At the beginning of the press conference, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed what happened during the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in Geneva. He said: I am sorry for the short delay. As I said at first, I will make a statement at the beginning of this press conference on the issues that interest you. I believe you are more interested in the talks in Geneva with the Iranians under the supervision of the UN secretary general. I wish to provide some explanations and comments regarding the agreement made during the talks, what happened in Geneva, and our expectations in the near future.

As you know, the Iranians accepted Resolution No 598 on 18 July. After that, the UN secretary general invited the foreign ministers of the two countries to New York to discuss the implementation of the resolution. When we went to New York, we proposed initiating direct and immediate talks with the Iranians under the auspices of the UN secretary general to agree on a common understanding on the conditions of the resolution and to achieve a joint agreement on the timing and measures of implementing the resolution.

Iraq's sincere and objective proposal was badly interpreted by the other side, which depicted it as a condition. It was not a condition, but a proposal for a direct and constructive agreement between the two sides. The two sides were in war for 8 years. Therefore, they need to see each other, to talk to each other, and to reach an agreement on the meaning of the resolution and the best ways to implement it to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement.

Information Minister on U.S. 'Campaign,' Peace

JN1909125388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] London, 19 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that the campaign led by the American Knesset—the Senate—against Iraq, has been expected since the beginning of the Al-Faw battles, the great victory, and since signs of the final victory began to appear.

In a comprehensive interview with the London-based AL-DUSTUR magazine published today, Jasim said that this Iraqi victory has made the enemies, particularly Zionism and the circles linked with it, try to black it out. He added: We will not say more than this because they cannot do worse than they have already done.

The Iraqi culture and information minister noted that in light of this, Iraq was aware that when the final victory was achieved, all Iraqi territories liberated, and the Iranian aggression and war machine crushed, the Zionist quarters will create circumstances to black out the shining and total Iraqi victory or distort the new Iraqi state before the world.

Jasim noted that the Iraqi victory and the escalation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory have upset Zionist and imperialist quarters. He said that these stands emerged clearly after the Iraqi Armed Forces uprooted the agent pocket in the North in the record time of 2 or 3 days. This made the suspect quarters in the world lose their mind because they had lost a big card on which they wagered for a long time.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim refuted U.S. and Zionist claims on the use of chemical weapons. He indicated that the Turkish authorities and Foreign Ministry, as well as the Red Cross, had issued several statements and communiques affirming the absence of the least shred of evidence

on the use of chemical weapons. He stressed that in all cases, facts will not change and time will expose this faleshood and suspect propaganda campaign. He also referred to the RCC general and comprehensive amnesty decision affecting rebels and terrorists, and referred to the return of large numbers of them to the homeland.

The minister spoke about Hafiz al-Asad's stand and his support for the anti-Iraq campaign. He indicated that this stand is part of the Syrian ruler's treasonous stands that are hostile to the Arab nation, the principles of joint Arab action, and the Palestine question. He remarked that Hafiz al-Asad has lived on the torn bodies of the Lebanese and the blood of the Palestinians and established relations with Iran at the expense of the Iraqi people's blood for 8 years. He said that the Syrian regime's hysteria since the Iraqi victory is further evidence that it has lost all its cards and feels more bitter than the defeated Iranians.

On peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran in Geneva, Latif Nusayyif Jasim explained that Iraq is fully aware of the ruling mentality in Iran. He said the Iranian rulers are evasive and liars and seek to falsify matters. They have upset the negotiations and developments by fussing throughout the negotiations.

However, the culture and information minister affirmed: In any case, Iraq hopes a comprehensive and durable peace will be achieved. This peace should be based on Iraq's inalienable and known rights on its land, sovereignty within its international borders, and the guarantee of its inalienable right to sovereignty over the entire Shatt al-'Arab—the only Iraqi outlet to the sea.

INA Updates Number of Kurdish Returnees

JN1909175088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—The number of citizens benefiting from the general amnesty issued by the RCC on 6 September had reached 34,691 by 1900 today. This number of returnees includes 8,391 women, 17,996 children, 8,208 men, and 883 elderly people. [all figures as received]

President Addresses Arab Women's Federation

JN1809192788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 88

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's address to a delegation of the General Federation of Arab Women; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We said we would be the happiest people if peace were achieved. In fact, this took place when the cease-fire—the first step toward peace—was achieved, although the cease-fire has not yet been put into the form of an agreement. It also took place when we registered a message on 6 August and when they responded and told the UN secretary general that they had agreed. Then the cease-fire took place. The cease-fire would have been put into the form of an agreement, and we would have moved to the second, the third, and the fourth points. These should have been agreements announced to the people, and peace should have been final. We took the first step represented in the cease-fire. Peace was not made by anybody except the Iraqis. [applause]

It is our duty to praise efforts of the good people in the world and the Security Council for their attempts to get the Iranians to accept peace. The UN Security Council could not persuade them. The Security Council issued its Resolution No 598, which it called binding. For 1 full year, Iran did not deal with the resolution. [passage omitted]

The Iraqis have proved their ability to make sacrifices, God be praised. The Arab nation's capability is still there. God disappointed the aggressors, God be praised. The Iraqi men and women have been continuing their celebrations. The celebrations were vigorous at first. The victory deserves a 1-year celebration with the 1st day's vigor because the intentions were evil and extensive. Were it not for God's mercy, they would have destroyed and burned everything on the Arab land and distorted all values and principles as well as the meaninings of the Arab nation's progress. Any simple look at the current annoyance around you will explain the profound meanings of this victory.

We are dutybound to tell our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territoiries in Palestine that victory is also for them, with God's help. [applause] The people who are determined to wrest their rights will achieve victory. Our people have rights. As they are determined in this splended way, about which we hear and see, they will, with God's help, achieve victory.

The Zionist grudge and moves against Iraq will not benefit them. When we were youths with little experience and capability and when we were weaker, they could not affect Iraq. Neither they nor others could affect Iraq. This grudge, annoyance, are like pouring soup upon oneself. They have to respond to the Arabs' rights in Palestine. They have no choice but to respond.

With God's help, steps toward peace will continue despite Iran's procrastination, because when nations know the facts, charlatanism will fail. Chalatanism works in darkness. It works secretly. But when facts are clear, charlatanism will not work or any effect. The Iranian people know the facts, just as the Arabs and the Iraqis knew earlier. I congratulate you over your victory, my Arab sisters, and through you, I extend my greetings, wishes to the Arabs—peoples, popular organizations, kings, and presidents. Thank you very much for your gift. [applause]

Ship Leaves Port With Second Load of Oil
JN1609171288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—At 1300 [0900 GMT] today, the Iraqi mmerchant ship "Al-Wasiti" returned to the port of Umm Qasr loaded with commercial goods and commodities from abroad.

A reception was accorded to the ship "Al-Wasiti" and its crewmen. A number of officials of departments affiliated to the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Trade took part in the reception ceremony in Basra. The ship "Al-Wasiti" had inaugurated Iraq's commercial import activities following an 8-year disruption caused by the Iraq-Iran war.

Furthermore, the Iraqi oil tanker "Ayn Zalah" left the port of Khawr al-Zubayr at 1015 today loaded with 17,000 tonnes of Iraqi oil on its second journey since the Iraq-Iran cease-fire went into effect on 20 August.

In a related development, four foreign ships left the port of Khawr al-Zubayr to the countries that own them. These ships were grounded there because of the war. These ships are the Japanese ship "Kriznet," the Greek ship "Fragranti," the Turkish ship "Bimyuri," and the Hong Kong ship "Rizcon" [names of ships as received].

Assembly Delegation Leaves for Sofia IPU Meeting
JN1709135288 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Sept 17, INA—Delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly left here today for Sofia to participate in the six day meetings of the 80th conference of the inter-Parliamentary union due to start there next Monday.

Mr. Baha' al-Din Ahmad, chairman of the delegation told INA that the conference will discuss the role of the parliaments in developing international cooperation in humanitarian fields and achieving harmony among national legislations and international norms, principles and means of human rights and the extent of the parliaments' participation in implementing the U.N. resolutions on granting independence to the colonized areas and the eradication of colonialism, racialism and racial discrimination. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi delegation is comprised of Mr. Dawud al-Dabbagh, secretary of the National Asembly, Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi head of the Arab and international relations committee in the assembly and Mr. Harith al-Khayshali, member of the assembly.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Riyadh With Message
JN1909172588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother, Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, left for Riyadh this evening.

The personal envoy told INA that he will convey an oral message from the president leader to his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, dealing with bilateral relations, ongoing negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, and issues of mutual interest.

Baghdad TV Shows Films on U.S. 'Violations'
JN1609204488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Baghdad television has continued for a week to show daily presentations of a selected series of films and documentaries showing the extent of human rights violations committed by the United States inside and outside the United States.

The films depict how man is humiliated in the United States. They also depict what was perpetrated by the gangs of mass killings in Vietnam during U.S. involvement in the region. The films and documentaries portray the U.S. policy which is based on prejudice, racism, and on the U.S. support for the racist regime in southern Africa and for the Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine.

One of the films depicts the effects of the destruction caused by the U.S. nuclear bomb that was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Other films depict the background, dimensions, and facts pertaining to the flagrant U.S. interference in Latin American states, the Arab homeland, Southeast Asia, and elsewhere.

The most important films shown by Baghdad television are the following:

1. "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"

2. "Man of the Law, Angel City"

3. "The Arena of Victory"

4. "Camp No 4"

5. "The Suffering of a Family"

6. "Of Mice and Men"

The presentation of the films are part of the Iraqi campaign countering the unjust anti-Iraq U.S. media campaign represented by the suspect decision of the U.S. Knesset—the U.S. Senate—a decision supported by

world Zionist quarters to undermine the clear victory of the Iraqi Armed Forces against the Khomeyniite aggression which targeted the Arab nation.

It is well-known that the formula of the U.S. Knesset's decision and the terminology used in that formula are harmonious with campaigns previously launched by Zionist quarters in Tel Aviv and by pro-Zionist media quarters and organs in some parts of the world, because Iraq has killed their dreams and foiled their vicious schemes more than once.

Baghdad television will continue to show films on U.S. violations to demonstrate that the United States is one of the biggest human rights violators. This also applies to the Zionist lobby and Zionist gangs—whose massacres are currently being committed in occupied Palestine but the U.S. Senate has failed to lift a finger.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Senate's 'Conspiracies'

JN1609125288 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 16, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said if the card of the U.S. Knesset decision was the best product of the U.S. Senate mind which is full of conspiracies against the people's, this means among its meanings the best status of bankruptcy because this card was born still. [sentence as received]

In an editorial here today the daily added that Iraq was not surprised by this unfair Zionist-American campaign, represented by the unjust decision of the U.S. Knesset, which is full of sheer lies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said that these circles failed to prevent Iraq from achieving victory and progress even in fields that are confined to the super powers as Iraq appeared great with its leadership and revolution and with the Iraqi people and most of the Arab nation's sons rallying around victorious Iraq.

The daily added, therefore it was necessary to use a blackmail card that was imagined by these circles to achieve changes in the events and conditions or to cover up the voices of justice and the facts as well. But the millions of Iraqis and Arabs and all those honest people in the world had smashed this card which was further destroyed by the high voice of Arab solidarity and by the Iraqi Kurdish citizens who returned to the homeland.

The daily concluded its article by saying that Iraq which was not terrified by the conspiracy of the war of aggression which was foiled by the Iraqis and their heroic deeds and by its brave leadership and great leader President Saddam Husayn and the support of the Arabs, will not be terrified and shaken by the card of the U.S.-Zionist decision because he expected its occurrence on the one hand and it consisted a scandal for those who used it on the other.

Paper Says Iran Pursuing 'Reckless Course'

JN2009094688 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 20, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad advised Iran rulers not to count on advices by Zionist-imperialist circles and be illusioned that they extend to them sufficient help in the peace negotiations.

A daily editorial here today said that advices of Zionist and imperialist circles neither benefited Iran rulers before nor saved them from defeat in the war so that now they render them help in the peace negotiations.

The dialy stressed that those circles boosted Tehran rulers illusion when they unleashed the dirty defamation campaign against Iraq and recommended them of extending support in containing Iraq's victory and realizing their greeds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH went on saying that Tehran rulers should abandon their illusion before Iraq finds itself forced to use its pressing cards, which are numerous and effective and would place Iran in a dilemma.

It added that Iran is still pursuing a reckless course and does not endeavour for real peace or depart from its expansionist greeds. Iraq would be forced sooner or later to adopt another path that Iran rulers never thought of.

The daily stressed that Iraq would neither squander any of its rights nor accept manipulation or pressure or place itself in a narrow corner but places itself in a position of having the initiative that would embarrass the enemy and disarm it.

Further Reportage on Satellite Launching

Shamir: Not Part of Arms Race

TA1909125888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shalom Qital and 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live.]

[Text] [Qital] Shalom, Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Shalom, Shalom.

[Qital] We should congratulate ourselves.

[Shamir] Certainly. We should congratulate our scientific community, our industries—all those who participated in Israel's great scientific and technological achievement. Although what was launched into space today is an experimental satellite, there are very few countries that are capable of such a move, and all the citizens of Israel should be proud of their country, which is capable of displaying such an achievement.

[Qital] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is in the studio with me.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, do you believe that the launching of this satellite, which displays Israel's strength, could affect the arms race in the region?

[Shamir] It has no connection with arms races. If we are speaking about races, then it is more a race over technological and scientific capabilities. We heard from the chairman of the Israel Space Agency that this is a technical experiment, an interesting and important experiment which introduces us into a new era, making Israel a partner in the top ranks of the modern technological era. This, of course, makes us all happy and means very good tidings for all of us in Israel today.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, I understand you were not present at the launching.

[Shamir] No, I was not there and I do not think my presence was needed. Those who were there were involved in the project and had to be there.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, I assume that a decision of this type is taken at the highest possible political level. Did you have any second thoughts? Israel does have other problems.

[Shamir] We will not at this moment go into details. I do not think that it should be seen as something complex from a political angle. We should mainly consider the technological importance, and in that realm there is no doubt that Israel's international prestige has increased tremendously.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

Shamir Sees 'Prestige' Benefit

TA1909162488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Shilon] Along with the sense of technological achievement and the prestige gained by launching an Israeli satellite into space, there is also perhaps the aspect of our joining the space race, whose long-range projections are unknown. Experts evaluate its significance in terms of millions, perhaps billions of shekels. Is this not too big for us? Will this not present a danger in 5 or 10 years, when we might confront a dilemma similar to the one we faced when we were obliged to cancel the Lavi project, for instance?

[Shamir] I do not think so. We have in fact achieved a great technological feat, as you said, but we are not obliged to follow in the footsteps of every development in this sphere in the world. I hope we will be able to stay within the boundaries of our limited financial and physical ability and, at the same time, continue to develop our intellectual and scientific skills.

[Savir] As prime minister, you determine the state's priorities. Where do you place the importance of this satellite as opposed to urgent problems, such as health, education, and others, which are part of our country's everyday life?

[Shamir] Look, this is not one of the essential goods, such as bread, clothing, or health services. This is, however, one of the things which bring the state a lot of prestige and that can sometimes result in economic and other advantages. It is a well-known fact among space scientists that such an achievement can be instrumental in promoting industrial development. It will also help us become part of the recently created international market connected with space research.

[Shilon] Sir, with your permission I would like to pursue Goni's question regarding national priorities. I would ask you to refer to the issue directly. Permit me to acquaint you with the following: Yesterday, I heard your finance minister, Moshe Nisim, say in these very words that no order of national priorities exists, there has never been one, and no discussion has been ever held on this issue.

[Shamir] I do not recall his saying precisely that. One cannot say that no order of priorities exists in Israel. All the annual debates over budgets concern priorities, and I do not think we have to raise the question of priorities in each and every case. The achievement which made us so

proud today will add a new dimension, and I believe will help us solve in the future those very problems that are now regarded as top priority.

[Savir] How does it promote our strategic capability?

[Shamir] First of all, as I have already said, it brings us prestige, which in our world means a lot of consideration in the international arena. That special consideration has a positive strategic significance.

[Shilon] Mr Shamir, among the reactions to the launching of the satellite, we heard Knesset Member Sarid, who said that strategic height—and he meant the Israeli satellite—will perhaps allow giving up strategic depth—meaning the territories.

[Shamir] Well, everyone looks for his favorite point. I say that this achievement, of which we all should be proud, will give us new scientific power, which can be regarded differently by the various schools of thought in Israel. I believe that members of all these schools should be proud of any scientific achievement that can serve the country's goals and further its progress.

[Shilon] Still, I would like you to comment on the relation between a space satellite and relinquishing territories.

[Shamir] There is no connection between the two whatsoever. I think giving up territories always means impairing the chances of survival and of repelling aggression. There is no tenet in the world that demands concessions. There is no country in the world which holds this ideology as a tenet. I know of no country in the world whose slogan is the relinquishing of territories. We all want peace, there is no one who does not want it but one cannot turn peace into a synonym of concession or surrender.

I think our friends throughout the world are happy for us today, wishing Israel to continue its progress, both spiritual and scientific. Even people who speak of giving up territories know that Israel's physical scope is very limited even without ceding the territories. In the spirit of today, however, one could say that Israel's ability to achieve intellectual and scientific accomplishments is boundless. I say, therefore, that today's achievement is dear to all of us, and I hope it will prove a blessing in many areas. We should thank our scientists, manufacturers, engineers, and all those who were able to envision, plan, and carry out this project.

[Shilon] Mr Prime Minister, a happy New Year to you.

[Shamir] A happy New Year to you and to all of Israel.

Space Official Interviewed

TA1909124888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, director of the Israeli Space Agency, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Could you please tell us what you saw and what you know about this satellite?

[Ne'eman] Israel has launched its first space satellite. This is an experimental satellite which will soar to an altitude of approximately 250 km, where it will be closest to earth, and will then get as far as 1,000 km away. It will circle the earth in approximately 1 and ½ hours.

[Qital] Tell us about the launch: Did it proceed without any problems?

[Ne'eman] I cannot go into detail, but all in all everything proceeded just fine.

[Qital] The launch took place about 2 hours ago, is that not so?

[Ne'eman] The launch took place at 1132.

[Qital] This is actually not the first satellite to be launched by Israel; there was Shavit-2.

[Ne'eman] That was not a satellite, but a rocket. A satellite is a body that goes into orbit and stays there, circling the planet Earth. Incidentally, this satellite can stay in orbit for approximately 1 month.

[Qital] And what happens then?

[Ne'eman] Then it burns and falls, in some kind of satellite death. This satellite, however, will be followed by others. This is a technological satellite launched in order to learn the technique involved, including mutual reception and so on and so forth. We are planning a scientific satellite. We have 11 proposals to conduct experiments, of which we will choose 2 or 3. The scientific satellite will be more advanced and stable and will be more effective. It will supply us with information about other space issues, according to our stipulations. All in all, I would say this is a very important step forward for Israel's industries, which have succeeded in penetrating the world of the future. The annual volume of this business currently amounts to over $10 billion. The Olympic Games are being relayed nightly from Seoul by satellite. To date, Israel has only been on the buying side; it is now moving into an area which we hope will enable it to sell at a later stage. In addition, this is also good for Israel's scientific and technological development in other areas.

[Qital] Prof Ne'eman, you painstakingly talk about a scientific satellite, technology, and industries. The initial report by foreign sources, however, was that this was to be a spy satellite. What is the security-military aspect of such a satellite?

[Ne'eman] They probably are aware of the fact that Israel has serious security problems, and that is why it is very hard for them to conceive of Israel building anything that is not essential for security. All this work has a security potential, but that is a matter to be decided by the security authorities: whether they want to exploit that potential or not. The importance of the satellite at the moment is of a technological nature.

[Qital] How long does it take to build such a satellite?

[Ne'eman] Look, as soon as all the initial stages are over, it is not all that difficult, and it becomes a matter of building better and more sophisticated satellites with more complex systems and a larger energy supply.

[Qital] Prof Ne'eman, to what extent did we use the experience gathered by other countries?

[Ne'eman] To a very large extent. On such matters, one does not reinvent the wheel.

[Qital] Could you please tell us what point the satellite is at now?

[Ne'eman] That must be calculated: If the satellite circles the earth in 1 and ½ hours, and it is now 1340 local time, we could say that around 1300 it had completed its first orbit and is now probably on the other side of the earth.

[Qital] Perhaps it is watching the Olympic Games in Seoul.

[Ne'eman] Perhaps it is.

[Qital] Is it now at the top of its altitude?

[Ne'eman] Yes, it is.

[Qital] Prof Ne'eman, we will be glad to hear further reports about the satellite.

[Ne'eman] To sum up, I would say that this is a nice present on the occasion of Israel's 40th birthday from the scientific and engineering community in Israel.

[Qital] We thank you very much for the present.

2d Satellite in 'Several Weeks'

TA2009095988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Shmu'el Tal, Ilan Kfir, Tamir Shefer, Qim Nave, and Ya'aqov Eylon in New York]

[Excerpt] Another satellite will be launched in several weeks, immediately after the first Israeli satellite Ofeq-1 burns out. This was said yesterday by Prof Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the Israel Space Agency. The second satellite will also orbit at a height of several hundred km, which is characteristic of observation satellites. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 20 September reports that Prof Ne'eman said that "the next satellite, Ofeq-2, will be a civilian scientific satellite."]

Space Official Denies Spy Aspect

TA1909185588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Military reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Moshe Qeret, head of the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] which made the satellite, if there is any basis to the speculation that it will be used for spying.

[Begin recording] [Qeret] This is not a spy satellite, and this is not a communication satellite. This is a technology research satellite. We wanted to check our ability and to demonstrate our technologies, and that is the only purpose of that satellite. That satellite will be flying for a few weeks' time, and then it will sink back to the atmosphere and will be burned.

[Ben-'Ami] It is called Horizon [Ofeq]-1. Can we expect Horizon-2, Horizon-3, in fact, a whole series of Israeli satellites in the future?

[Qeret] We certainly hope so, because we think the space is a legitimate market. I think it is growing market, and you can follow what happens in this area for the last few years, and there will be more and more business coming through space. We certainly would like to have a share of it.

[Ben-'Ami] What sort of investment does it involve? Some people talk about a billion-dollar, 3-billion-dollar effort being required to launch a satellite by any country.

[Qeret] No, it is not a billion, and not 3 billion, only a fraction of it. Over the years—more than 20 years—the compound amount of money that was invested was less than $200 million, not just by IAI, but the entire industry in Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Was there any cooperation at all with other countries in this work, or in any specific project—with American or any other nation, European nations perhaps?

[Qeret] No, this is indigenous technology here, what we call blue and white [colors of the Israeli flag], and there is very little that we purchased outside. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 19 September carries an interview with IAI Director Moshe Qeret who adds that "most of the satellite was manufactured by the Mabat plant which is part of IAI's electronics division." Asked as to whether the Mabat plant could go ahead and manufacture the Amos communications satellite, Qeret says: "We regard the Amos satellite as the next stage in our space program. Although we still have to get organized technically, commercially, and financially, this remains one of our objectives."]

Project Chief Interviewed

TA1909184388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Interview with Professor Dror Sade, coordinator of the Israeli Space Agency and of the Ofeq-1 project, by Meron Tzur; place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tzur] Where is the satellite now?

[Sade] The satellite is currently in its fifth orbit around the earth. It completes one orbit every 90 minutes in an elliptical trajectory, from an altitude ranging from 250 to 1,000 kms.

[Tzur] Is it circling the earth from east to west or vice versa?

[Sade] This is the only satellite that orbits earth counterclockwise.

[Tzur] Why?

[Sade] Because all other satellites use the earth's movement for the final propulsion since the earth moves from west to east. We, however, had a problem because we do not have the sea in the east. We had to launch the satellite in the direction of the sea so that in case there was an accident, the satellite would fall into the sea rather than on people.

[Tzur] Could it fall in the Mediterranean Sea or any other sea?

[Sade] It has not fallen so far, and therefore it will not fall. When it finally falls it will burn before it hits anything.

[Tzur] How was the launch actually carried out? Foreign sources report about an Israeli rocket launching the satellite into space.

[Sade] The launch was carried out by a satellite launcher. There was no rocket involved, but rather a whole system for the launch of satellites which was designed and planned in Israel. One of the minor components of the system is the rocket. The satellite launcher consists of three stages, and rocket would be too small a word to describe it since it is a far more complex system than that. [passage omitted]

[Tzur] Prof Sade, I suppose this satellite will transmit information in various forms such as photographs, computerized and digital data. What will it transmit to us?

[Sade] This is just a technological satellite; it is meant to determine whether Israel can enter space. Its transmissions do not include any information since the satellite is not equipped with instruments capable of relaying information. The transmissions are relayed by telemeters. They emit meaningless signals, and at the moment we are only checking whether we can receive them.

[Tzur] Have you already received them?

[Sade] We have a problem since only the first trajectory passed over Israel. One must realize that each orbit lasts 90 minutes. There are 16 such orbits a day but only 7 of them—each one lasting approximately 7 minutes—take place over the antennas in Israel that are supposed to receive the satellite's signals. [passage omitted]

[Tzur] Which systems were developed and introduced in the satellite? These were probably the product of coproduction between the Israeli Space Agency and Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. Could you also tell us how much it cost?

[Sade] IAI was the project's main contractor, and it deserves all the praise for its work. As for the cost: Its computation began over 20 years ago. According to our calculations, the cost of the project so far has been some $190 million, in terms of the cost at the time. The Israeli Government transferred $5 million to IAI through the Israeli Space Agency in 1985, and another $15 million a year later. When compared with this great achievement, it was a small financial investment. The investment is only in the infrastructure which will enable us to launch satellites in the future. We will then decide what these satellites will do. The main purpose of the Israeli Space Agency is to manufacture scientific satellites that will enhance the well-being of the citizens of the State of Israel.

[Tzur] When is the experiment scheduled to end? According to official announcements it will last approximately 1 month.

[Sade] The satellite will fail in approximately 1 month, but we need only a few days to ascertain that all its systems are working. We can already say that the satellite has been a success and is working well.

'Specifications' Detailed

TA2009090088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] "Ofeq-1" was launched westwards over the Mediterranean into a low, elliptical orbit with its perigee (point at which it is closest to earth) at 250 kms over the Middle East and its high point at 1,000 kms. The satellite orbits east to west every 90 minutes repeating the flight every 7 revolutions of the globe. The satellite rotates on its axis once every second ensuring inertial stability so that the body-mounted solar panels face the sun in order to generate electricity required by its systems.

Ofeq-1 will have a life-span of about one month and will burn up as it re-enters the atmosphere.

The launch vehicle was a "Shavit" three-stage rocket. The first stages crashed into the sea.

Ofeq-1 Specification

Shape	Octagonal
Height	2.3 meters
Lower base diameter	1.2 meters
Upper base diameter	0.7 meters
Weight	156 kg
Solar power supplied	246 watts
Average power consumption	53 watts
Voltage, unregulated	25-42 volts
Communication	S band
Telemetry rate	2.5 kbits/second
On-board memory	128 kbytes

The Space Club

USSR	1957
U.S.	1958
Japan	1964
France	1965
China	1970
U.K.	1971
India	1982

Envoy to Egypt, Mubarak Discuss Bilateral Issues

TA1909133188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, held a 90-minute talk today with President Husni Mubarak. They discussed the peace process and bilateral relations, including tourism and transportation ties and issues pertaining to oil drilling. Interviewed on the midday newsreel, Ambassador Shamir pointed out that President Mubarak singled him out of the 11 ambassadors who presented their credentials to him today, according him an exclusive audience.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the fact that only Prof Shamir was given an audience with President Mubarak attests to the solidity of peace between Israel and Egypt.

Mubarak Says Arabs Want Peace

TA2009111888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] The Egyptian president said the Arab world accepts the principle of peace with Israel, and Jordan is also committed to peace. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that these remarks by President Mubarak were included in a discussion he held with Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's new ambassador in Cairo, after he presented his credentials.

President Mubarak called for a closer dialogue with the Palestinians, and added that the moderation they will show will surprise Israel. The Egyptian president expressed his full confidence that, as in the past, Israel will be ready to meet its commitments honorably when the Tabah arbitration ruling is announced.

Peres on Ties With Egypt, Visit to France

TA1909141488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, today toured the Triangle villages, where he said that he does not expect to be briefed by the French foreign minister on the latter's meeting last week with PLO head Yasir 'Arafat. Peres will waive any such briefing. At the same time, he hopes that his own visit to France at the end of this week will promote the peace process. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar discussed this and other issues with the vice prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Zohar] Sir, you will arrive in France less than 2 weeks after Yasir 'Arafat visit there. Is this another stage in your efforts to solve the situation in the Middle East?

[Peres] Yes, this is another stage in the effort to separate the wheat from the chaff; that is, to separate the essential from the marginal. In general, we should stop being influenced by slogans, both those of the extreme left and the extreme right. We must find that one open channel that will allow us to solve the Middle East tangle through political means.

[Zohar] Are you supposed to be briefed by your French counterpart on his meeting with the PLO leader?

[Peres] My curiosity does not extend that far, and I am not at all sure I will insist on it.

[Zohar] Sir, our ambassador to Egypt is presenting his credentials today. Do you not fear for the future of our relations with Egypt if no breakthrough in the peace process is made?

[Peres] There are so many reasons for wishing for a breakthrough that I need no new ones. I should note one thing, however: Relations with Egypt have withstood a 10-year test—a most respectable period—which included some very rough periods, such as the war in Lebanon and the intifada [uprising]. Although the peace between us is not perfect, I prefer imperfect peace to flawless enmity.

[Zohar] Sir, to conclude the interview, what is your position on the proposed cuts in the government budget? Are such cuts possible in the defense, education, and culture budgets?

[Peres] As a rule, I am all in favor of a balanced budget. It is impossible, however, to come to the Cabinet and tell its members: This is it, sign the paper. We should either hear alternative proposals from the Treasury, or the Cabinet itself should set up a ministerial team to search for alternatives. The weaknesses of the Treasury's proposals are visible from even the first glance. The Defense Ministry's budget, for example, was supplemented by 100 million shekels only a few weeks ago. The Treasury has now decreased the addition to 70 million. I also doubt that the education, health, or police budgets can be reduced.

On the other hand, I hear every day that there are budgets that make the construction of 2,000 houses in the territories possible, for instance. Is this not the most urgent matter right now? [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Death Toll Reported

TA1909145388 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 19 Sep 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Friday, 16 September, the 284th day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported 205 Palestinians killed in the occupied territories. The number does not include casualties caused by settlers' fire and other causes.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, on 17 September, the 285th day of the intifada, the number of dead totaled 283.

The number reported by Palestinian sources, on the other hand, is 364, according to the following breakdown:
—238 persons killed by IDF and settlers' fire.
—33 persons killed by beatings and electrocution.
—63 dead through gas inhalation.
—30 dead from other reasons.

Last week, the Palestinian sources subtracted five deaths from the list of "dead from other reasons," as it had been learned that they were not connected with the intifada.

Firebomb Thrown in E. Jerusalem

TA2009083988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] A firebomb was hurled at a passing minibus belonging to an East Jerusalem resident as it passed through Wadi Qaddum near Silwan in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Kohen reports that the firebomb landed in the vehicle and caused slight damage, but there were no casualties.

Gaza Spiritual Leader on 'Islamic Currents'

TA2009104588 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Interview with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of Islamic organizations in Gaza, by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Gaza; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] What Islamic currents exist in the Gaza Strip?

[Yasin] As far as I know, there are Islamic institutions in Gaza, such as the Islamic Mujama'a, which, naturally, operate legally. Of course, these institutions have humanitarian and social aims, as well as providing sports facilities and programs for the public. They provide services to the population, such as aid to the poor and kindergarten programs. The activities of these institutions center on Islamic propaganda and humanitarian aid, and have an athletic aspect as well. There are also other Islamic currents which are illegal, that is, they are covert.

[Ben-Menahem] Meaning the Islamic Jihad?

[Yasin] No, not the Islamic Jihad. Their activities are unknown; therefore, one cannot talk about them. They are underground.

[Ben-Menahem] As for the Islamic Resistance Movement, what is the meaning of this name?

[Yasin] The Islamic Resistance Movement's activities are clandestine. One cannot talk about them because they are not in the open.

[Ben-Menahem] Are the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement one and the same?

[Yasin] If you look at the pamphlets in the streets, you will see that the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement each have their own pamphlets. Thus, they are different.

[Ben-Menahem] Your honor, which is the dominating force in the Gaza Strip: the national or Islamic forces?

[Yasin] You cannot say who is in control because all the forces are in the arena. These different movements have not been in conflict with one another, so one cannot say which one dominates.

[Ben-Menahem] But which is the motivating force in the Gaza Strip?

[Yasin] One cannot say. All the forces are there. I believe that the Islamic movements were the initiators.

[Ben-Menahem] They initiated the uprising?

[Yasin] Yes, more or less.

[Ben-Menahem] What was the role of the national forces?

[Yasin] Later on they joined the uprising and took part in it.

[Ben-Menahem] Do the Islamic currents and the Islamic Mujama'a recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative?

[Yasin] They recognize it, with reservations.

[Ben-Menahem] What reservations?

[Yasin] The reservation is that they want the state they long for to be an Islamic state, not a secular one.

[Ben-Menahem] But is there agreement between you, the Islamic Mujama'a, and the PLO?

[Yasin] I do not think so. There are no agreements, but all strive for one aim. The PLO wants to establish a Palestinian state, and the Muslims also want a Palestinian state. The difference is that they want a secular state and the Muslims want an Islamic state.

[Ben-Menahem] As for the uprising, it is said that at the beginning the Islamic currents and the national parties coordinated their moves. Do you believe that this coordination continues?

[Yasin] I do not know.

[Ben-Menahem] Do differences exist between the Islamic currents and the national parties here in the Gaza Strip?

[Yasin] I am not aware of this. I have not sensed any differences.

[Ben-Menahem] There have been attempts to attack Islamic personalities, such as the incident in which Dr Ibrahim Yazuri's car was set on fire. Who do you believe is behind this?

[Yasin] No one knows, because if some unknown person sets fire to someone's car, it is difficult to identify him.

[Ben-Menahem] However, there is, for example, disagreement between the Islamic and the communist forces here in the Gaza Strip. Is this true?

[Yasin] Disagreement is natural in every country. Even in Israel there are differences, between the [name indistinct] party and other parties. This does not mean that they must fight each other.

[Ben-Menahem] As for communism, what is the position of the Islamic Mujama'a in general and here in the Gaza Strip in particular toward communism?

[Yasin] The Islamic Mujama'a is based on faith, and communism is based on non-belief. Therefore, there is a strategic difference in opinion and basis, but everyone is free to have his own opinion. Each human being enjoys freedom of thought.

[Ben-Menahem] Your honor, what is your opinion of the concept of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile?

[Yasin] I believe this is a premature step because we, the Palestinian people, have still not liberated any part of our land thereby enabling us to establish a state or government on that land.

[Ben-Menahem] Does this mean that you oppose this concept?

[Yasin] I am saying that it is premature.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think that the national parties, or the PLO, should consult the Islamic forces with regard to the future of the Gaza Strip?

[Yasin] The PLO owes it to the Palestinian people to obtain the views of all the people with their various viewpoints.

[Ben-Menahem] With regard to the future of the Gaza Strip, do you see that the Islamic bodies in the Strip are being consulted?

[Yasin] I do not know. I have no knowledge about this.

[Ben-Menahem] But there should be such cooperation.

[Yasin] This is natural. Consultation is natural, but I have no knowledge of this.

[Ben-Menahem] What is your opinion on negotiations with the Israeli Government?

[Yasin] Israel has not yet declared its position regarding the Palestinian people and has not announced what it wants to give the Palestinian people. The Palestinians have lost everything and are now talking about matters over which they have no control. It is best that they talk about the rights of the Palestinian people, such as the right to a homeland. Israel, too, should talk in a similar fashion. The Palestinian people must not talk while Israel remains silent.

[Ben-Menahem] This means that Israel should speak first.

[Yasin] It must announce its position, what it will offer, and discuss rights. Then the Palestinian people will speak. For the Palestinian people to speak and for Israel not to announce its position will be aserious mistake.

[Ben-Menahem] If Israel were to talk about the rights of the Palestinian people, do you personally and from the vantage point of the Islamic bodies believe that there would be room for a dialogue with Israel?

[Yasin] When Israel talks we will listen, then we will respond. In principle, Israel must talk first and then we will.

[Ben-Menahem] Does this mean that the Islamic bodies are ready to cooperate or negotiate with Israel, should it agree to this?

[Yasin] Israel is ready to negotiate with any party, but on its own conditions. However, when Israel puts forward conditions and terms acceptable to the Palestinian people, then there may be a discussion. But premature talk about negotiations, before Israel consents to the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, is inconceivable.

[Ben-Menahem] But in principle, are the Islamic bodies ready to talk and negotiate with Israel?

[Yasin] If Israel were to agree to the Palestinian people's rights. Israel must first make such an announcement; then talks will be held.

Nationwide Poll Elects Peres 'Man of Year'

TA1909150088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] A nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ and conducted by the Pori Institute on the occasion of the end of the Jewish year [11 September], shows that 8.1 percent chose Shim'on Peres as the most positive figure in Israel in the outgoing year. Last year, too, Shim'on Peres was elected "man of the year" by 18.4 percent.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was the runner-up with 6.3 percent. He is followed by President Hayim Herzog (6.2 percent), Finance Minister Moshe Nisim (2.9 percent), Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin (2.6 percent), Binyamin Netanyahu (2.4 percent), Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon (2.2 percent), Education and Culture Minister Yitzhaq Navon (1.2 percent), Menahem Begin (1.1 percent), and Arye Eli'av (1 percent).

Other figures who received less than 1 percent of the popular vote include Me'ir Kahane, Abie Nathan, Refa'el Eytan, David Levi, and Abba Eban.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 women and men.

Majority Believes Territory Policy 'Too Soft'

TA1909145688 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Sep 88 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] A clear majority of the Jewish population—73 percent—believe that the Israeli Government has been adopting too soft a policy in the face of the Arab ferment in the territories; 85 percent believe Jews cannot travel freely and safely in Arab areas; and almost all Jews in Israel—95 percent—are sure that Arabs can travel in Jewish-populated areas without any fear or apprehension.

These findings are included in a public opinion poll commissioned by the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies in Jerusalem which was conducted by the Israeli Institute for Applied Social Research.

The poll was conducted at the beginning of July on 1,882 people residing in 35 urban communities within the Green Line.

Commenting on the principle of "land for peace," a majority of 73 percent believe the Arabs see it as a sign of weakness on Israel's part, while a majority of 56 percent believe the Americans see this principle as a sign of Israel's strength. Israelis are split in their opinions on the issue, with 57 percent who see it as a position of weakness and 34 percent who perceive it as a position of strength.

As for moral principles, the population is split in almost two equal blocs: 50 percent say there is room for the demand that Israel should behave better than other nations in the world, while 48 percent think otherwise and perceive such a position as endangering Israel's well-being.

Comment on Shamir's Office View of Shultz Speech

TA1909154788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Sep 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Shultz' Warning"]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office reacted to the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in an address to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy by saying that "they do not merit any comment because there is nothing new in them;" also, it concurred with his harsh criticism of the notion of transferring Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza by saying, "We also object to transfer." The Prime Minister's Office, however, chose to ignore Secretary Shultz' harsh criticism of the Israeli Government's policies. It may be that Israel expects Shultz' criticism to fade away with the change of administrations in Washington. Yitzhaq Shamir chose to turn a blind eye to the fact that U.S. policy principles have not changed since the Rogers plan of 1970. Rogers spoke about the return of territories with the exception of minor border adjustments as the basis for a political settlement in the region, and, despite some minute changes, successive U.S. Presidents and secretaries of state did not deviate from those principles. The Reagan-Shultz duo is seen as very friendly to Israel, but the changes they introduced failed to break the stalemate created by the Israeli Government (notwithstanding the fact that the Arab and Palestinian side did not display the courage and wisdom to break the stalemate either).

The U.S. secretary of state mentioned other points for which Shamir and the entire Israeli Government have no answer whatsoever. In his sharp criticism about the arrest and deportation of Palestinians, Shultz pointed to a paradox: You cannot claim "there is no one to talk to, while suppressing political expression and arresting or deporting those who speak out." The U.S. Administration has noted this folly of Israel's policy in the territories on more than one occasion. The Military Government consistently prevents any political organizing, bans contacts between moderate Palestinians and Israelis, and then argues that "there is no one to talk to." At least the right wing of the government does not want to have anybody to talk to, as Shamir and the Likud have nothing to talk about unless the Palestinians come to terms with their status of enjoying no rights, and as being undeserving of fulfilling their national rights.

Shultz lashed out at the "transfer," eliciting Shamir's concurrence with him on this point. Although Shamir also objects to transfer, Shultz knows why he is warning Israel. Admittedly, the racist notion of transfer is embraced openly only by the extreme fringes of the right wing in Israel, but those (such as Ari'el Sharon, to cite one case) who argue that Jordan is the Palestinian state are thus also hinting at what should be done with the population of the West Bank.

Secretary Shultz and President Reagan have hardly done anything to settle the Middle East conflict. These were wasted years befitting the terrible waste embodied in the unity government which set the tune for the political stalemate in the region.

Columnist Views 'Superficial' U.S. Statements

JN1809095088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Sep 88 p 20, 22

[The "Arab Opinion" column: "Shultz Leaves Only One Option" by Mahmud al-Rimawi]

[Text] Perhaps the best comment on Shultz' speech at the opening of a research institute in Washington yesterday was that the U.S. secretary of state did not leave the Palestinians any option other than what they are currently doing; that is continuing their blessed uprising, which has become the center of attraction, and gained the sympathy of the whole world. Although Shultz believes the uprising has affirmed the need for peace in this highly tense region of the world, he turns around and reduces its importance by saying that it has not effected an essential change. This is the same opinion expressed by Israeli leaders.

George Shultz did not leave many options for the people concerned with the cause, because, while trying to deliver a balanced speech on rejecting Israeli annexation of the occupied territories, he demands no return to the 1967 borders. He is putting the cart before the horse to announce his government's rejection of establishing a Palestinian state, government-in-exile, or the right to self-determination. In this way, the U.S. government is the only one endorsing the deprivation of the Palestinian people and denying them the right to practice their simplest national rights. These are the rights that all the peoples of the world have practiced previously.

As for the Hebraic state, after 40 years of its establishment at the expense of the ruins of an entire people, Shultz sees that its continuation, security, and existence is the the basic principle for any settlement in the Middle East, as though dangers and threats surround this state and not the isolated and scattered people who are suffering all forms of oppression, torture and attempts to destroy their national ambitions of living in liberty on their soil.

Shultz, speaking on the 10th anniversary of the Camp David agreement, did not forget to declare that this agreement remains, in his opinion, the strategic base for any solution to the region's crisis, as though nothing has happened in the world during this past decade. Egypt no longer adheres to the Palestinian part of the treaty, neither is it for the generalization of this experience, and neither has the Arab world declared its acceptance of it. At the same time, world unanimity has become increasingly clear on the necessity and soundness of convening an international conference and the Palestinian uprising has established itself as one of the political realities in the region.

The U.S. Administration turns a blind eye to these developments and facts and is satisfied with superficial, ambiguous, and general statements on Palestinian rights, thus warning the Palestinians against attempting to exercise their rights or translating them into a reality, especially on their own soil. In the logical opinion of the chief of U.S. diplomacy, exercising these rights could threaten peace in the region, while giving up these rights, and ceasing to think about them, is the quick and sound route to peace!

We know that the world views these problems from the perspective of individual interests. But when U.S. interests are represented by the eradication of an entire people, clearing the political stage, and giving up their rights for fear of affecting U.S. interests, either directly or indirectly, then this becomes old and outdated colonialist greed which became obsolete with the end of colonialism and squandering of human rights.

If the U.S. Administration continues its traditional stands opposed to the spirit of the age and human rights, the Arab nation and the Palestinian people have no option other than to continue the difficult and noble road of driving away the loathed occupation and allowing the sons of the cause to practice their right to self-determination on their soil, under the umbrella of international legitimacy represented by the United Nations charters and resolutions, and not by the colonialist promises such as the Balfour declaration.

AL-NAHAR Publishes Jihad Statement on Hostages

NC2009091688 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Sep 88 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] has reaffirmed its initiative to resolve the issue of the hostages it is holding, saying that this initiative is "still valid and still stands." The organization renewed the call it made to the U.S. Administration to "shoulder its responsibility" and adopt a position on the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories that is compatible with "the dictates of human rights and the responsibility for encouraging any possible detente in the region." The organization warns that "this opportunity may not come again."

Around 2200 Sunday night [18 September], the IJLP sent a new statement to the AL-NAHAR newspaper, with a Polaroid photograph in color of the four U.S. hostages it is holding: Beirut University College Professors Robert Polhill, Alann Steen, Jesse Turner, and Mithileswhar Singh. The photograph shows the four professors sitting at a table playing cards. It is worth noting that this is the first snapshot of the four hostages together. The text of the statement follows:

Following the positive initiative to resolve the issue of the hostages, and subsequent reactions by the U.S. Administration, the Organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announces the following: First, there will be no negotiations with the U.S. Administration. The tendency to resolve the hostage issue is not an invitation to hold negotiations, but rather an act within the framework of the humanitarian and ethical values in which we believe. We will not see the day when we will hold negotiations with a murderous and criminal administration. However, after thoroughly and responsibly studying the emerging political detente in the region, we now believe in the need to give impetus to this detente through a positive initiative in connection with the issue of the hostages, which is integral to any change in the situation in a direction which would either complicate or resolve it. It is an opportunity for officials in the U.S. Administration to contemplate with a sense of responsibility the current and future state of this issue, because the opportunity may not come again. In return, we only demand the legitimate rights of the uprising of our heroic Palestinian people according to the dictates of human rights and the responsibility to further encourage detente in the region.

Second, the just cause of our people is only part of a whole, and so is the support for their legitimate rights. The use of force and violence, or the resort to peace initiatives, is equally part of a whole. What is important is the principles dictated by our religion. A sense of weakness has never been our motive to change direction. Force also has never dictated a change in our tendencies. Our actions are dictated by our principles and values. We always are ready to resort to violence, as we always are ready to act in a calm and positive way. This is the stage of positive actions. Do not waste this opportunity by uttering arrogant words which only provoke us and encourage us to resort to force and violence to extract recognition. This issue must be resolved in a positive manner and the U.S. Administration must shoulder its responsibilities.

Third, we are astonished at the ridiculous one-upmanship demonstrated by U.S. candidate Dukakis' announcement of his intention to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem to gain the support of Zionist groups in the elections. This blatantly provokes the feelings of our heroic people and the Muslims in the world, and it promises a gloomy future. We declare that Jerusalem is an ever-active volcano which will burn the U.S. Embassy. Until that time we will have our own positions. However, we are confident that Dukakis' views do not reflect U.S. public opinion. Therefore, they will not affect the hostage issue, for which the prevailing atmosphere is favorable.

Fourth, the initiative is still valid and still stands. We are waiting for reactions, which will decide our next steps, according to the requirements of our blessed uprising. Peace be upon those who serve truth for its own sake. [Signed] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine

Hizballah Source on Hostages

NC2009054488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0535 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] A source in Hizballah disclosed today that, during the Syrian-U.S. talks, Damascus offered to release the U.S. hostages who had been kidnapped from Beirut University College, in return for exerting U.S. pressure to hold the Lebanese presidential elections in Al-Najmah Square [in West Beirut] on 22 September.

The source added that the kidnappers had demanded a ransom of $20 million in return for the release of the hostages. The source asserted that the four Americans are not in Hizballah's custody.

Phalangists Reject 'Camouflage Elections'

NC1909150588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Phalangist Political Bureau, following an extraordinary meeting this afternoon, has renewed its call for free and amicable elections that truly reflect the will of the Lebanese. The bureau rejected absolutely any camouflage elections and democracy by appointment, particulary by a non-Lebanese party.

The Phalangist meeting was chaired by the party's deputy leader George 'Umayrah, as party leader Dr George Sa'adah was taking part in a meeting of Maronite deputies in Bkirki.

Following the meeting, 'Umayrah reiterated the party's firm position on the need to hold the elections on time, as stipulated in the Constitution, and according to parliamentary democratic norms. This would ensure a consensus on the new president and guarantee that this president would be capable of talking to everybody, not owe anyone favors, and be capable of interpreting and following regional trends in the best interests of the country.

Paqraduni Explains Rejection of Al-Dahir

NC1909193788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has stated: The U.S. envoy has offered us his aid and advice to accept Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir [as president]. We thanked him for his efforts but rejected his advice. His efforts are praiseworthy, but his advice is rejected, Paqraduni asserted.

Paqraduni explained that the collective rejection of the appointment of Deputy al-Dahir is for two reasons. The first reason is formal: The agreement with the Americans was that they propose three names, not one. The proposal of one name is tantamount to an obligatory choice, not a selected president. The second reason is fundamental: Deputy al-Dahir has frankly committed himself in writing to an agreement with Syria equivalent to the tripartite agreement.

Meanwhile, the text of Deputy al-Dahir's program, which he had handed to Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, was published today. In his program Deputy al-Dahir goes beyond the tripartite agreement. The most prominent features are: special relations with Syria, the formation of a higher security committee in which two Syrian officers will participate, and the extension of the Syrian forces' tenure in Lebanon.

Ja'ja' Warns Militias Against Military Operations

NC2009062588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that Syria is seeking to turn Lebanon into a satellite state. He said that if the Chamber of Deputies does not meet on Thursday [22 September] and if a new president is not elected, then it will be natural for the president of the republic to form a transitional government to secure the continuation of legitimate authority.

Dr Ja'ja' said he refused to have Damascus impose decisions on Lebanon, telling the Lebanese people to vote for this or that person. He said it would be better to have a presidential candidate acceptable to Syria, the United States, and other foreign powers, but this does not mean that Syria should choose the candidate.

Commenting on Richard Murphy's talks with Syrian officials and their choice of Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir as presidential candidate, Dr Ja'ja' said that this will not affect the relationship between the United States and the Christians in Lebanon. He stressed he will not accept Al-Dahir as president because he has given certain documents to the Syrians making many concessions at the expense of Lebanon. He has also made commitments to Syria that give it the right to deploy its forces according to its strategic requirements.

Dr Ja'ja' expressed his belief that it is still possible for Christians and Muslims to reach accord on a conciliation candidate, regardless of whether Syria agrees to this or not. He reiterated his view that the election should be held on time, that is, on Thursday, but said that it could be held later. The Lebanese Forces commander warned the Lebanese militias against launching any military action. This he said, would lead nowhere; anyone could resort to such a step.

Al-Jumayyil Studying Transitional Government

NC1909190788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Informed sources emphasized this evening that the president of the Republic is now busy studying the formation of a transitional government and that he might announce it in the next 48 hours, before the date set for the Chamber of Deputies elections session.

Al-Huss, Al-Husayni Return; Call for 'Calm'

NC1909170988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned from Damascus this evening. Dr al-Huss has sent a letter to Patriarch Sfayr appealing to him to intercede with the deputies to calm the atmosphere. In his letter Dr al-Huss says: Lebanon is enduring a very delicate phase which we should transcend through the election of a new president.

Meanwhile, former President Sulayman Franjiyah returned to Ihdin from Damascus today after meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It is worth noting that Franjiyah has not yet adopted a new position regarding his candidacy.

Al-Huss Sends Letter to Patriarch

NC1909194988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Following his return from Damascus, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss expressed his rejection of a transitional government headed by a Maronite. He

appealed to Patriarch Sfayr to intervene to ensure the elections. In a letter to Patriarch Sfayr, Acting Prime Minister al-Huss appealed for help to ensure that the elections are held on time.

Al-Huss wrote: With only 2 days left before the hour of truth, in order not to be dragged into the unknown, and in deference to the interests of the homeland, we find it imperative to note the following facts: If consensus on a presidential candiate is considered an appointment, something which you reject, we wish to point out that this has been the case almost throughout the history of presidential elections in Lebanon. True competition among candidates has been almost nonexistent, with the exception of the election of former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Al-Huss asked: Where were freedom and democracy when Bashir and Amin al-Jumayyil were elected president of the Republic?

Al-Huss expressed astonishment at criticism being levelled at the United States for its efforts with Syria to find a solution to the constitutional crisis. He added: Those in charge of the Maronite sect did not object when the United States intervened earlier and vetoed the candidacy of Franjiyah. Al-Huss also referred to presidential candidates who made a pilgrimage, as he put it, to Washington to win the Presidency. He noted that those who stand to lose from the restoration of peace will exploit the imbalance in the situation to block the election session and devise schemes to partition the country, starting with the declaration of a transitional government headed by a Maronite under the pretext of filling the constitutional vacuum.

Al-Huss drew attention to the fact that there can be no constitutional vacuum because should the presidential post become vacant, the executive authority would be entrusted by proxy to the Council of Ministers, that is, the current government. He added: That this government does not meet is due to the boycott imposed by the president upon himself. The president declined to break free of the boycott shackles when former Prime Minister Rashid Karami submitted the government's resignation on a silver platter and he failed to form a new government. He missed another opportunity when I informed him of the withdrawal of the government's resignation and he turned me down. Had he accepted, new horizons of mutual work would have loomed between us.

Al-Huss said: There is no transitional government envisioned in the Lebanese Constitution. Nor is there anything in the Constitution or tradition which stipulates that such a government should be headed by a Maronite. However, there is a firm constitutional tradition stipulating that the government should be headed by a Muslim.

Al-Huss then referred to a precedent when President Bisharah al-Khuri resigned. He said this precedent was a one-time occurrence. President Fu'ad Shihab submitted his resignation without appointing a government headed by a Maronite. President Ilyas Sarkis announced his resignation while I was the head of a government, and when he asked me to submit my resignation in order to appoint a Maronite, I refused, because I did not want it to become a precedent.

Al-Huss added: The constitutional tradition in our dilapidated system gives the Presidency to the Maronites, the speakership of the Chamber of Deputies to the Shi'ites, and the premiership to the Sunnis. Why is there so much conern about the Maronites' position and not the others? He said: If the argument of those who call for the establishment of a transitional government headed by a Maronite is that the Muslims cannot be trusted with the fate of the country, even for an emergency period, we refuse to even respond to such statement, because those who hold such a view deny the unity of this homeland.

Al-Huss expressed his fear that the veto is designed to lead to their naming a single candidate, and thus the appointment in this case would represent their idea of an exercise of freedom and democracy.

Finally, Al-Huss asked that relevant facts be found to see that the right thing is done at this eleventh hour of truth. He concluded: Everyone is wagering on your wisdom at a time when the decisionmakers are gathering around your spiritual and leadership position.

Birri Warns of Partition, Unending Battles

NC1709115888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has affirmed that the existence of two governments in Lebanon will lead to partition and unending battles. He pointed out that he is opposed to any military escalation because such methods are wrong and their failure has been proven. He called for the solution of all problems within the present government.

In a radio interview, Minister Birri affirmed that the principles of the second republic will be announced after 24 September if the Chamber of Deputies session on Thursday fails. He explained that the second republic principles will deal with the building of a national army; the dissolution of the militias; the consolidation of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence; and the achievement of justice and equality among the peoples. He paid tribute to some leaders in East Beirut who agreed with his views.

Regarding the current talks in Damascus between Richard Murphy and Syrian officials, Minister Birri said: I think that the Americans are still proposing the termination of former President Sulayman Franjiyah's candidacy and the nomination of another candidate. This will not succeed, and therefore I am not extremely optimistic.

Christian Leaders on Importance of Free Election

NC1909084188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The leaders of the Lebanese Christian communities met under the chairmanship of Patriarch Sfayr in Bkirki today. In a statement issued a short while ago, the leaders reiterated the principle of free presidential elections without any kind of pressure. They also stressed that the Lebanese democratic system must be preserved and deputies given the freedom to carry out their nationalist and constitutional duties as they see fit.

Protests Against Al-Dahir's Candidacy Noted

NC1909100088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Minister Joseph al-Hashim has said that exchanges should have been conducted in a more serious way to reach a true consensus over a presidential candidate and ensure that the deputies get to the Chamber of Deputies to elect that candidate. Speaking after a meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Al-Hashim said that elections should take place in a democratic manner and without a prior decision concerning the candidates. Al-Hashim called for proper measures to be taken to enable deputies to reach the Chamber of Deputies. He said that the elections should be held in a safe location which is accessible to all. He added that he would prefer the elections be held at the Chamber of Deputies.

For his part, National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un said after visiting Bkirki: Our proposal for breaking the deadlock is to set squabbles aside and return to the 53-vote quorum and secret ballots in voting for the president. Sham'un noted he visited Bkirki because of what he described as the way they wanted to impose a certain candidate on the Lebanese.

Meanwhile, the Barbir-Museum crossing point has been closed since this morning, following a demonstration near the museum by approximately 1,500 people in protest at the nomination of Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir as sole candidate for the presidency. The demonstrators also protested the continued detention of Deputy Farid Sarhal in the Bristol Hotel.

Crossing Point Reopened Following Protest

NC1909140388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] According to security reports, the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point was reopened this afternoon after having been blocked by approximately 1,500 demonstrators. They marched toward the Mansur Palace this morning to protest the designation of Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir [as presidential candidate] as well as the continued detention of Deputy Farid Sarhal.

Maronite Deputies Debate U.S.-Syrian Talks

NC1909113788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] At 1100 this morning, 18 Maronite deputies held a meeting at Bkirki at the invitation of Patriarch Sfayr. Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir, who has been designated as a presidential candidate, did not attend, nor did Dr Farid Sarhal, the deputy whose detention stands out as a blatant example of open conspiracy.

The meeting ended a short while ago with a statement saying that Patriarch Sfayr had briefed the deputies on the Syrian-U.S. talks. The conferees debated the outcome of these talks in depth and Patriarch Sfayr then called on Christian deputies to meet in Bkirki at 1000 tomorrow.

Deputy Butrus Harb said as he was leaving the meeting that the deputies discussed current political issues and the outcome of the U.S. envoy's talks in Damascus. Harb noted that an agreement was made without Lebanese participation and that it has not won their endorsement.

Mufti Office Director Announces Candidacy

NC1609112388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Dr Husayn al-Quwatli, director general of the mufti's office, has declared that he is nominating himself for president during the elections scheduled for 22 September. This nomination comes in response to the statement by Raymond Iddih in which he emphasized the right of the Maronites to monopolize the presidency. Dr al-Quwatli noted that Iddih's statement is a blatant challenge to all non-Maronite Lebanese sects, particularly the Muslims. He added: Therefore, I nominate myself for president as a Lebanese Muslim. [passage omitted]

Former Deputy Nominates Self for Presidency

NC1909133788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Former Deputy 'Abdallah Khutayyah has sent a letter to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni announcing his nomination for the Presidency and his readiness to withdraw in favor of whoever receives a majority of votes, provided his top priorities are the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and suport for extensive reforms.

More on Developments in Lebanon Election Issue

PM1909092588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Sep 88 p 16

[Unattributed report: "'Awan Will Enter Palace on 24th Via Legitimate 'Coup' If..."]

[Excerpts] Days, hours, and seconds are passing very quickly, but there is still no solution. Tension and worries are increasing. Everyone is concerned about the

presidential election, and about its being held in time, before it is too late and before those in power lose their authority, thus leaving the arena in chaos for the usurpers or those who have some kind—any kind—of authority. Then force would become the only legitimacy.

President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil believes that all efforts must focus on the presidential elections and the need to hold them as scheduled. He believes that talk about a transitional government will not only waste time but will sabotage the elections as well, at a time when they should be the sole focus of everyone's attention.

Those who met with the president of the republic recently emphasized that he is focusing on the presidential elections and that all his contacts and activities center on creating a suitable atmosphere for the elections, so that he will hand over the power entrusted to whomever the Chamber of Deputies elects. But in the president's drawer there are prepared decrees ready for signing with regard to the formation of a transitional government under a Maronite, as is customary, since the head of state must remain a Maronite. [passage omitted]

As for Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, he believes otherwise. His circles believe that Muslims in Lebanon are no less faithful or committed to, or desirous of, Lebanese sovereignty and unity.

Prime Minister al-Huss says: If President al-Jumayyil's motive for naming a Maronite head of government for the transitional government is the fact that there was a precedent—namely, when President Shaykh Bisharah al-Khuri appointed General Fu'ad Shihab—that precedent did not become a custom. For a precedent to become a custom it must be repeated. I prevented it being repeated when I refused to resign during the era of the late President Ilyas Sarkis. [passage omitted]

Syria still insists on the nomination of former President Sulayman Franjiyah. It is backing him and calling on all factions to secure the quorum needed to elect him in parliament on 22 September.

Some circles are talking about what might occur and what might be considered a solution, namely, the establishment of two governments. If these were to be established, [Lebanese Army Commander] General Michel 'Awan—who would then represent a legitimate presence under two entities both claiming to be legitimate—would be forced to assume power on the pretext of protecting the Constitution and guaranteeing the sovereignty of the homeland. The proponents of this idea say that such a move would outwardly appear to be a coup, but not a true coup, because it would be within the framework of legitimacy, since it would be the Army alone which represented legitimacy. And that would receive international and religious support at Christian and Muhammadan [as published] levels, which would defuse sectarianism. [passage omitted]

Sources Comment on Murphy Talks in Damascus

NC1709061388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Holding the presidential elections on schedule remains the focus of consultations in Lebanon and Damascus. Richard Murphy, who is in Damascus, did not meet yesterday with any Syrian officials. The three meetings he had held previously with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam failed to narrow the differences between them. The talks however, have not reached a deadlock, although they are facing a crisis which could require further consultations. The talks may resume today following contacts between Murphy and the U.S. Administration in Washington.

During his meetings with Syrian officials, Murphy emphasized Syria's role in Lebanon and the region. Khaddam responded by demanding political implementation of such statements. An informed source has quoted Khaddam as telling Murphy: If you have a plan for solving the Lebanese crisis, bring it. We are prepared to discuss its details. However, Lebanon cannot endure plans for 1 or 2 years.

Circles close to Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri say that the talks have stumbled but not stopped. The Syrians offered three options, summed up as follows:

1. A public and explicit pledge for political reforms backed by a U.S. pledge to bring about Israeli withdrawal from the South, because peace in Lebanon cannot be stable and permanent under Israeli occupation;

2. Agreement on a presidential candidate able to implement political reforms; and

3. Recognition of the present government and freezing the situation for a specific period, during which obstacles would be overcome and the basis of an agreement among the Lebanese to end the civil war would be established.

The same circles said that the Americans did not give a final response to any of the three options. Thus, the third round of talks between Khaddam and Murphy ended at this point 2 days ago.

Highly placed sources in Beirut say that the doors have not been shut completely and that there will be a new opportunity to narrow the differences in views today and perhaps also tomorrow, Sunday, especially if the U.S. delegation returns with clear responses acceptable to the Syrians. The sources noted that a prominent Arab mediator is undertaking a secret mission in this regard which it is hoped would lead to the resumption of the talks and to a solution before Monday.

French Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits

NC1709082188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Gilbert Perol, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, and Alain Dejammet, director of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Ministry, arrived from Cyprus at the Maronite Patriarchate compound at 0920 today aboard a military helicopter.

A meeting is currently taking place between the French delegation, which was joined by French Ambassador Paul Blanc, and Patriarch Sfayr. The delegation is scheduled to meet with President al-Jumayyil and hand him a message from his French counterpart. It will also call on Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Delegation Meets Al-Jumayyil, Others

NC1709173588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The French delegation which arrived in Lebanon this morning has held a series of meetings in Bkirki. It also has met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. At 1800 today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil met with the delegation in Bikfayya Palace in the presence of French Ambassador Paul Blanc. Gilbert Perol, director general of the French Foreign Ministry, who is heading the delegation, said, after visiting Bkirki, that France hopes matters will be dealt with within the framework of justice and the restoration of the Lebanese people's unity. He pointed out that France is willing to exert all efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, noting that France's duty is to maintain its stand toward Lebanon.

The French delegation then visited Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. Perol said after the meeting that the delegation's mission is an exploratory one, adding: We are ready to undertake any effort to help Lebanon. He denied that he had handed the Lebanese officials a message from French President Mitterrand. Perol also denied any connection between the French delegation's visit to Lebanon and U.S. official Murphy's visit to Syria. However, he voiced the hope that views would converge. The French official disclosed that he also will travel to the Syrian capital, adding that he does not know whether or not he will meet with Murphy. Perol concluded by expressing the view that the situation in Lebanon is not hazardous.

Delegation Returns From Damascus

NC1909191188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The French delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Gilbert Perol returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening. The delegation met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at 1900.

Immediately upon its arrival, the French delegation met with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, who emphasized the need to elect a new president in a free and democratic atmosphere. He also emphasized his rejection of the principle of appointing a president.

French Foreign Minister Phones Al-Jumayyil

NC1909200588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening received a telephone call from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas concerning Lebanese developments. Dumas affirmed that France is ready to make every effort to help Lebanon and to intensify efforts at the highest levels for this purpose. Dumas also conveyed to President al-Jumayyil French President Francois Mitterrand's concern about the situation in Lebanon and called for cooperation among all the parties and all sincere people to find a solution to the crisis.

A French Foreign Ministry delegation this evening briefed the president of the Republic on the results of its talks in Damascus yesterday about the presidential elections. Al-Jumayyil had a lengthy meeting this evening at Bikfayya Palace with the French delegation, which includes Gilbert Perol, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, and Alain Dejammet, director of the Africa-Middle East Department. The meeting was also attended by French Ambassador to Beirut Paul Blanc. The meeting ended at 2115. Later Perol refused to answer questions about foreign intervention in Lebanese affairs. He said: The meeting with the president of the Republic was important, but you must understand that I cannot make any statement.

Israel Military Concentrations Reported in South

NC1909200988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] According to information received from the South there are Israeli military concentrations in the towns of Tallusah and Bani Hayyan and in the positions of Al-Dabshah, Tuhrah, Al-Suwaydiyah, and Bayt Yahun.

'Big' Explosion Occurs in Al-Dawrah Area 20 Sep

NC2009062488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0606 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] A big explosion occurred in the Al-Dawrah area [in East Beirut], near the Mercedes company offices, a few minutes ago. Our correspondent reports that the explosion was probably due to a booby-trapped car.

A number of persons have been injured according to our correspondent. Ambulances are requested to head to the Al-Dawrah area.

Deputy Skaf 'Slightly Wounded'

NC2009065288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0629 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Report by station correspondent George Shahin—recorded]

[Text] According to available information, Deputy Joseph Skaf's motorcade was passing in the [Al-Dawrah] area when the explosion occurred. He has been very slightly wounded. He was taken to Mar Butrus Bulus Hospital with a number of other injured persons. We are attempting to identify the injured. According to security sources, Deputy Skaf's injury is very slight, and he was not the target of the explosion. At least 15 people have been wounded. It is believed that one or two people were killed.

3 Killed, Over 25 Injured

NC2009080488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Three people were killed and more than 25 others were injured when a booby-trapped Toyota exploded in a side street in the banking area of Al-Dawrah at 0900 today. The blast rocked the area and the booby-trapped vehicle was hurled across the street, damaging many other cars.

[Former] Minister Skaf's motorcade was passing along the highway when the explosion occurred. His bulletproof station wagon crashed into a tree as a result of the explosion and was destroyed. Minister Skaf sustained slight injuries. Some of his escorts were also wounded and taken to Mar Butrus Bulus Hospital. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reports: Minister Joseph Skaf has suffered slight head burns and has been hit with shrapnel in his neck and hand. His condition is not serious. Some of his escorts have also sustained slight injuries, but some are in serious condition. [passage omitted]

Shi'ite Gunmen Shoot 3 Ghanaian Soldiers

NC1709060488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Reuter has cited Amal Movement sources as saying that Shi'ite gunmen shot and wounded three soldiers of UNIFIL's Ghanaian contingent when the soldiers, riding in a jeep, refused to stop at a checkpoint in Al-'Abbasiyah last night. Reuter added that two of the three soldiers were transported to the UNIFIL headquarters in a nearby village, while the third was taken to a Tyre hospital.

Syrian Position Bombed; Tension East of Sidon

NC1909203588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] An explosive device went off at a Syrian occupation forces' position in the Al-'Ijjah-Al-Barbir area in West Beirut this evening. Security sources have not reported any casualties.

Meanwhile, extreme tension is prevailing on the Lib'a, Kafr Falus, and Ayn al-Mir combat lines east of Sidon following clashes this evening between the South Lebanese Army and gunmen of extremist Islamic organizations.

Lebanese Speaker, Prime Minister Meet Khaddam
JN1909105088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] In Damascus, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1100 today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended. The meeting revolved around the situation and developments in the Lebanese arena.

Received by Al-Asad
JN1909161388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today Lebanon's House Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was later joined by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed Lebanese developments.

Al-Asad Discusses Lebanon With Walid Junblatt
JN1909174188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1730 today received Walid Junblat, Lebanon's minister of public works, transport, and tourism, head of the PSP. They discussed Lebanese developments.

Meets With Birri
JN2009103788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of justice and reconstruction of the south and leader of the Amal Movement, at 0945 today. The conversation revolved around the situation on the Lebanese arena.

Franjiyah Departs Following Talks With Al-Asad
JN1909161588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus—Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah left Damascus at 1530 this afternoon. He was seen off at the northern entrance to Damascus by Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil.

Commentary Views U.S. Stand on Peace Conference
JN1709142288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1133 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Some observers of the the global political scene argue that international detente spearheaded by the United States and the Soviet Union has progressed to the point of either resolving or mitigating regional disputes to keep them from bedeviling international relations or spilling over the border to embroil the giants. A case in point is the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan and the one on Namibia and the withdrawal of the forces of the racist South African regime from Angola.

Two more examples that come to mind are the deescalation of contra aggression against the anti-American Nicaraguan Government and the Cyprus talks between the government and representatives of the Turkish minority to find a definitive solution to the problem that has preoccupied Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, NATO nations, and the international community.

When President Reagan, proponent of confrontation with and military superiority over the USSR, began his second term of office in the White House, these developments were unthinkable. But observers now tend to think that the superpowers have agreed to settle regional disputes and ease tensions lest the causes of detente and disarmament be set back and thus harm their respective national interests.

The Middle East is the scene of by far the most serious and complex regional conflict in the world. No other conflict affects the vital interests of so many influential powers. It is axiomatic that there should be talk about finding some kind of solution for the Middle East problem and that the detente-seeking superpowers probe a solution to this old crisis that has proved too hard a nut to crack for the United Nations since 1947, when the partition plan dividing Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state was passed. The problem has proved equally intractable for both superpowers.

Against the background of this set of circumstances, the United States showed signs of a shift away from its obstinate rejection of the proposed UN-sponsored international Middle East peace conference, to be attended by all the parties concerned plus permament members of the UN Security Council.

Parallel to its acceptance of the international conference notion, the United States placed a set of conditions that should turn the parley into a vehicle for imposing Israeli and American terms on the Arabs and pushing piecemeal, separate deals even worse than the Camp David agreements.

As if hurrying the natural pace of the development of international efforts, the United States made energetic moves regionally and internationally, all the while seeking to give the impression that it has a free hand in addressing and devising solutions for the dispute. Washington is also trying to show that it has the key to a settlement and that none can be attained if it is not American.

In the meantime, more emissaries and envoys have been visiting Washington and successive U.S. proposals have been made, but without a single, meaningful, practical step made toward the proposed international conference or the required, just settlement.

General talk by the Americans about Palestinian rights and occupied land is disembowelled by the basic American position, which senior U.S. officials never fail to reiterate. The latest on that score was the lecture given by Secretary of State George Shultz in Maryland. [20-second pause in transmission]

American official statements fall short of UN resolutions, the right to self-determination, and peace and security by bypassing international law and the UN Charter in order to side with Israeli policies that introduced the Middle East crisis, triggered a string of wars, and confounded relations between the major powers on account of the Middle East complications. Rather than tell the plain truth, they are beating around the bush. They talk about justice but will not accept its terms.

They favor an international conference but want it stripped of real authority. George Bush also talked, and was even more biased toward Israel's hostile, expansionist polices than a good many Israelis themselves. He seemed more concerned about Israel than about U.S. national interests.

This American stand—hardline on substantive issues and flexible on marginal details—cannot possibly make any contribution to a settlement. Nor can it give the United States the role it claims for itself.

If there are people in Washington who contemplate pressuring the proponents of a just Middle East peace and an authoritative peace conference as happened in Lebanon's presidential vote, we would tell them that they will be doing a disservice to Lebanon, to the Middle East peace process, and indeed to U.S. long-term real interests.

Afghanistan

2 West Germans Arrested After Illegal Entry

LD1909162888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Two West German citizens who had entered Afghanistan's territory illegally with the extremists groups, were arrested recently in Ghazni Province by our country's security forces.

These people—a man and a woman—are Benno Splieth and Lea Hackstedt.

Air Force Commander Rejects Pakistani Allegation

LD1909213288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The commander of the Afghan Air Force, in a Foreign Ministry information briefing at Stor Palace, rejected Pakistan's allegation that an Afghan Air Force plane violated Pakistani airspace in the Nawagai area and its claim that Pakistan's Air Force downed two Afghan planes.

Brigadier General 'Abdul Fatah Rahimi showed Afghan and foreign journalists documents issued by the authoritiative Afghan commission investigating the case which term the allegations totally baseless.

He added: We proposed to the Pakistani Government that an Afghan and UN delegation visit the area where Afghan air planes were allegedly shot down. Because Pakistan's allegations are completely unfounded and slanderous, it refuses to accept the proposal.

He said: According to documents and evidence in our possession, Pakistani Air Force planes have violated Afghan airspace 20 times and Pakistani Air Force F-16's shot down two Afghan Air Force passenger and training planes.

The BIA reporter adds that later (Ajmal Khaibar) a member of the Afghan delegation at the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference Nicosia, told journalists about the Afghan delegation's active participation in the conference work and about its meetings with other delegations, which were briefed on the national reconciliation policy and Afghanistan's resolute position on the observation of the Geneva accords.

He called Pakistan's slanderous allegations about the intrusion of Pakistani airspace by Afghan airplanes another attempt by Pakistan to conceal its clear and blatant violation of the Geneva accords.

At the end of this information briefing journalists' questions were answered.

84th Memorandum Delivered to UN Office

LD1909204488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's coordination office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan reports that it delivered to the UN mission's office in Kabul the 84th Afghan memorandum on blatant violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords.

The memorandum states accurate information about Pakistan's five violations, naming the dates, places, and methods.

It requests that the cases be assessed on the basis of Paragraph Seven, Document Four of the Geneva accords, and that the result of the assessment be presented to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's envoy.

UN Human Rights Commission Official Leaves

LD1909212888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Professor Felix Ermacora, the special UN Human Rights Commission investigator who came to Kabul to report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, left for Geneva this morning.

During his 10-day visit, Prof Ermacora met and exchanged views with Esteemed President Najibullah, Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Sharq, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, a number of high-ranking officials, and officials of social organizations.

He also visited a number of the country's provinces, prisons, guest houses, and hospitals, and became familiar with facts concerning the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

A number of high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials and leaders and members of the UN Development Program in Kabul saw him off at Kabul International Airport.

Rebels 'Crushed,' Arms Seized in Paghman Province

LD1809145688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] During Armed Forces operations in the areas around Paghman District yesterday, a number of saboteurs were crushed in the Saydan, Begtot, and Shawalkhel regions of the district.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of Armed Forces activities in the vicinity of Paghman yesterday, 42 extremists were crushed and 20 of them injured.

During this action, in which the residents of Saydan, Begtot, and Shawalkhel regions took part, a missile, 2 mortars, a recoilless gun, and an ammunition depot belonging to the enmy were destroyed.

A total of 12 antivehicle and 13 antipersonnel mines were discovered and disarmed.

According to another report from Konduz Province, five highway robbers who were stealing travellers' possessions on the Konduz-Sherkhan Bandar highway, were arrested yesterday.

In the course of this activity, 8 of the robbers were crushed and 15 of them injured.

The report adds that during this operation a number of antivehicle and antipersonnel mines and hand grenades were seized by the country's security forces.

'Extremist' Groups Clash; Deaths Reported

LD1809225188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] As many as six people were killed and nine others were seriously wounded in clashes caused by personal hostility between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups in Nuristan Province. [as heard]

Similarly eight people were killed in clashes between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups in La'l va Sar Jangal area of Ghowr Province.

The clashes were caused by differences about the distribution of looted goods.

According to another report in clashes which occured between the Gulbuddin and Khalis extremist groups, nine people including an extremist ringleader were killed on both sides and six others were wounded.

18 Weapons Depots Discovered, Destroyed

LD1909172988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The BIA military section reports that the Armed Forces continued their mopping-up operations around Kabul Province today.

They discovered, seized, and destroyed 18 arms and ammunition depots in the Lalander region.

As a result of today's operation, 14 enemy depots, in which 650 rockets, 200 antivehicle mines, and 300 antipersonnel mines were cached, were destroyed.

Security forces seized four enemy depots containing hundreds of rockets, hundreds of antitank mines, many mortars, and thousands of various other weapons.

The arms and ammunition were made in China, Egypt, the United States, England, and Italy.

Security Forces Seize 50 Rebel Missiles

LD1909180788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] BIA's military section reports that 50 surface-to-surface missiles made in the United States, and recently acquired by extremists elements and hidden in the region of Kord Kabul, were discovered and seized today the Security Forces.

Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Operations

Mujahidin Control Takhar

BK1909021888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce clashes have taken place in Paghman District near Kabul. The Afghan mujahidin are reported to have gained control over the city of Takhar close to the Soviet border.

They have also carried out operations in Herat, Konduz, Qandahar, and other areas of Afghanistan.

Samangan Headquarters Attacked

BK1909113388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have killed a number of Kabul troops during an attack on Qal'eh-ye Now, Army Headquarters of Samangan Province bordering the Soviet Union, in the first week of this month.

Two tanks were destroyed and an administrative building was reduced to ashes and a security post located west of Qal'eh-ye Now was wiped out during the operation.

Reports from Baghlan say that after the destruction of the (Qala Ghai) Army Center, the Kabul troops have set up a number of Army camps at the place and fresh enforcements have been sent.

According to another report, the mujahidin also had conducted an operation on a security camp in the area where the Kabul troops had to suffer another [as heard] tragedy.

Pressure on Lowgar Increased

BK1909155388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpt] According to reports, the mujahidin in Afghanistan have increased their pressure on Pol-e 'Alam, headquarters of Lowgar Province, 30 kilometers from Kabul.

Reports say the mujahidin have captured the military posts of (Mir Abdul) and (Pir Barang). One surveillance battalion of the Kabul regime was destroyed during the operation.

In another operation, the mujahidin blasted the (Mulla Agha) depot of the (Waris Qaleh) military post, inflicting heavy damages to the Kabul regime forces. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Ershad Asks India To Transfer Disputed Territory

BK1909164588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] President Ershad has urged the Indian Government to transfer the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh for direct access to Dahogram-Angakota enclave.

He was addressing a huge gathering of people at Dahogram after visiting flood-stricken people of the enclave today.

The president said Bangladesh has handed over Berubari to India long before in fulfillment of its promise.

Although many years have passed, India is yet to transfer Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh despite repeated requests.

The people of Dahogram-Angakota enclave have been living isolated from the mainland Bangladesh because of the delay in the transfer of Tin Bigha corridor.

He urged the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, to make arrangements to transfer the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh as soon as possible in view of the sufferings caused to the people of the enclave due to lack of direct access to the area.

The president said Bangladesh has been continuously persuading India for the transfer of the corridor and hoped the Indian Government would respond to the call and fulfill its long standing promise.

He said once the corridor is transferred and direct communication established between the enclave and Bangladesh mainland, steps will be taken to (?assume) development of the area to improve the condition of the people living there.

The president announced that all the educational institutions at the enclave will be taken over by the government.

He also assured the people that all possible measures will be taken by the government to mitigate their suffering.

The president asked the Nilfamari District administration to initiate discussions with the authorities across the border so that development activities can be undertaken in the enclave by sending technical manpower and materials there from the mainland.

Deputy Prime Minister Professor M.A. Matin also spoke on the occasion.

The president was also briefed on the damage caused by the floods in the enclave.

He gave 1 lakh taka to the district administration for distribution among the affected people.

On his way back, the president made a brief stopover at village Parulia under Hatibandha upazilla [subdistrict] to see the condition of the Patgram-Lalmonirhat road.

The River Tista has eroded the road at several points threatening the railway track alongside the road.

The president also made a stopover at Dhaneskhali under Shagati upazilla in Gaibandha District to see the condition of the railway track damaged by the current floods.

PRC Helicopters Delayed by Burma 'Problem'

BK1909110888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 19 (AFP)—China may be unable to send three helicopters it promised to Bangladesh for flood relief work because Rangoon authorities have denied them the right to refuel in Burma, Chinese sources said here Monday [19 September].

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy here confirmed that "there was some problem with Burma, and they cannot land there," and added that whether the helicopters could be sent at all was now uncertain.

The Burmese military took power Sunday following two months of mass protests calling for an end to 26 years of authoritarian one-party rule in the country.

China has sent two planeloads of food and medicine to Bangladesh for the estimated 29 million left homeless by the floods, and India and several Middle Eastern countries have sent helicopters.

A number of other countries including the United States have responded to calls to contribute to a helicopter maintenance fund.

Many of the flood victims can be reached only by boat or by helicopter, and with floodwaters receding the government is concerned that access will remain curtailed until basic repairs can be made to scores of bridges and culverts washed out by the floods, the worst in memory.

India

Delhi Rounds Up Punjab Terrorism Reports

BK2009035288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists gunned down two persons and seriously injured three others near Tarn Taran in Amritsar District last night.

All educational institutions in Chandigarh, including technical institutions, will remain closed in view of the bundh [strike] by some political parties and organizations in protest against the killing of the Punjab BJP chief, Mr Hit Abhilashi in Chandigarh yesterday.

The Punjab State Congress-I chief, Mr Beant Singh, has condemned the gruesome murder. Speaking at Moga, he said it is high time that people came out to fight terrorists.

In Haryana, a red alert has been sounded and patrolling along the Punjab-Haryana border has been intensified.

Pakistani Envoy Speaks on Promoting Friendship

BK1809164288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador designate to India, Niaz A. Naik, has said he will make wholehearted efforts to promote real friendship between Pakistan and India.

Talking to Pakistani correspondents in New Delhi, he emphasized dialogue should continue to remove obstacles in the path of harmonious relations between the two countries. With political will by both sides, it will not be difficult to reduce tension.

The ambassador designate said he has assumed his responsibilities at an important time and the chances of normalizing relations between the two countries are bright, adding he will utilize all his capabilities in this regard.

He said consensus had been achieved during the talks between martyr President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on promotion of good-neighborliness and cordial relations between the two countries. I will start my efforts from that point, he said.

Niaz A. Naik told correspondents that the Pakistani defense secretary is to arrive in New Delhi on Thursday [22 September] to hold talks with the Indian authorities to find a solution to the Siachen issue. He said he will also attend the talks and expressed hope they would help in reducing tension in the region.

President Venkataraman Visits Finland

For Finnish media coverage of the visit to Finland by President R. Venkataraman, see the Finnish subsection of the Nordic Countries Section of the 16 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Briefs

New TV Transmitter

The remote border town of Rajaori in Jammu and Kashmir came on the television map of the country today. The solar-powered mini television relay transmitter was inaugurated by the agriculture minister, Mr Bhajan Lal. It is the 6th TV transmitter in the state and the 262d in the country. [Text] [*BK1809051088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 88*]

Heroin Seized From Nigerians

In Bombay, air intelligence unit officials seized 20.3 kg of heroin yesterday from two Nigerians bound for Addis Ababa. The contraband is worth about 20 crore rupees in the international market. [Summary] [*BK1890430 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 88*]

Iran

Majlis Approves 5 of 6 New Ministers

LD2009120488 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept 20, IRNA—The Islamic Consultative Assembley, Majlis, gave a vote of confidence to five out of six new ministerial candidates introduced by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

'Ali Shamkhani received the most votes as the new minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). Representatives voted 202 in favour and 10 against and 6 abstained.

The ministerial candidates needed a majority vote for approval.

The Majlis rejected three former ministers of IRGC, agriculture and education initially introduced by the prime minister nearly two weeks ago.

In its open session Tuesday the Majlis voted also in favour of new ministers for agriculture, education, construction jihad and energy but rejected the candidate for the Commerce Ministry.

Golamreza Foruzesh received 180 votes in favour, 15 against with 13 abstentions as the new minister of construction jihad. Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, former construction jihad minister, won 177 votes with 13 against and 5 abstentions as energy minister.

'Isa Kalantari was voted agriculture minister with 171 votes in favour, 25 against and 19 abstentions. He is the brother of the late Musa Kalantari, the former minister of roads and transportation who was martyred in a bomb explosion in 1981.

The new education minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi received just 128 votes in favour with 49 against and 30 abstentions. He previously served in Musavi's cabinat as minister of culture and higher education.

But the Majlis representatives did not agree with Majid Hedayat-Zadeh as the candidate for the Commerce Ministry which has been vacant for some time. He received only 94 yes votes, with 83 against and 31 abstentions, failing to win the required majority votes in favour. Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that Hedayat-Zadeh would continue to serve the Islamic Republic in another capacity.

It was not immediately clear whether the prime minister has an alternative candidate for the Commerce Ministry and when he would be introduced to the Majlis.

Mohsen Rafiqdust, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, and Kazem Akrami lost their posts as IRGC, agriculture and education ministers on September 12 after failing to receive a vote of confidence. They had been serving in the cabinet for several years.

Khomeyni Letter on Progress of Qom Dam

LD2009132288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni has agreed with a proposal by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sheykh Hasan Sane'i, the imam's represen'ative and supervisor of the 5 June Foundation, to centralize supervision of the 5 June dam project within this foundation and the Energy Ministry in order to speed up the building process. Imam Khomeyni also thanked everyone who has worked hard on this project. The text of the letter sent to the imam of the ummah by the supervisor of the 5 June Foundation is as follows:

To the sacred presence of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. May our souls be sacrificed for you. With respect and greetings we bring to your lofty attention that in accordance with your auspicious order on constructing the 5 June dam to supply drinking and irrigation water to Qom, the city of uprising and blood, effective steps have been taken and phases of this huge project have been completed. Thanks be to God, there have been no financial problems yet. However, there are some problems in acquiring the necessary materials, particularly those purchased with foreign currency. This problem will be solved with your favor, God willing.

At present the only problem hindering the speedy progress of the project as desired by that great imam and delaying implementation of the project is a lack of centralization at the decisionmaking level. The responsible officials and the 5 June Foundation have discerned that in order to speed up the process the work should be concentrated under the supervision of the foundation and the Energy Ministry. We therefore call upon Your Holiness to agree with the continuation of this project under the supervision of these two organs.

[Signed] Hasan Sane'i supervisor of the 5 June Foundation

The text of Imam Khomeyni's reply to the proposal of the 5 June Foundation supervisor is as follows:

In His exalted name. To Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Sane'i. May your blessings continue. In view of the deprivation of the Qom people during their struggle against the satanic regime, it seems necessary that the construction of the 5 June dam should be carried out faster. While thanking everyone who has worked hard on this dam and continues to do so, I agree with the proposal of Your Excellency, one whom I have always trusted and will continue to do so. You have always striven to sympathize with the deprived and oppressed and to provide comfort for them.

The officials and authorities to the blessed 5 June Foundation must work relentlessly, with perseverance and selflessness to complete the dam and other worthy causes. The responsible officials of the state will offer the necessary assistance in this respect, God willing. I deem it necessary to thank the [construction] jihad for its valuable work. May God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 19 September 1988

Velayati Briefs Montazeri on Geneva Talks

NC2009062688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister Mr Velayati met His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri and briefed him on his trip to Geneva and the United Nations.

Soviet Trade Official Attends Tehran Trade Fair

Discusses Trade With Majedi

LD1809211088 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept, 18, IRNA—A ceremony marking the Soviet Union's national day was held at the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair Sunday, attended by visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Veniamin Korolev and Iran's Deputy Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs 'Ali Majedi.

Addressing the audience, Korolev said the participation of his country in the Tehran Fair indicates Moscow's keenness to strengthen ties with its southern neighbour (Iran) on the basis of peaceful co-existence. "We are eager to upgrade mutual economic, technical and cultural ties with Iran."

He said the two countries enjoy long ties based on equal rights, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual interest.

The volume of Tehran-Moscow trade exchanges totalled dlrs 250 million in 1987 from dlrs 100 m. in 1986 and is expected to reach to dlrs 350 m. this year, he said.

During the last 25-years of Tehran-Moscow economic ties, Korolev said, 120 various industrial units were jointly set up in Iran through Soviet collaboration. He added that Soviet companies are currently engaged in giant projects such as building housing complexes and power generation plants in Iran.

In response, Majedi said Iranian and Soviet officials have exchanged frequent visits, which he said has served to bring their outlook closer.

He pointed out that the two countries are now on the eve of holding their 11th joint economic commission meet which he said is of great importance in view of the end of the Iraqi-imposed war, establishment of peace and the beginning of the post-war reconstruction in Iran.

Majedi also pointed out the volume of mutual trade exchanges has neither been at a desirable level nor can be termed suitable in view of the vast potentials and capacities of the two countries. He underlined the need for efforts to increase mutual trade exchanges.

Meets With Larijani

LD1909173888 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept 19, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Veniamin Korolev, in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, announced his country's readiness to expand mutual ties and implement new joint projects.

In response, Larijani said the policy of the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis the Soviet Union has always been based on mutual interests and understanding and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The deputy foreign minister for Europe-American affairs also expressed hope that the joint Irano-Soviet economic commission session due to be held in Moscow shortly would be a "turning point" in mutual relations.

Larijani, commenting on Iran's economic strategy, said the development plans in the fields of energy, food stuff industries, agriculture, defence and heavy industries are given top priority.

[Tehran domestic service in Persian at 1630 GMT carries a similar report, with poor reception, which notes that the meeting "was also attended by officials of the USSR's oil and gas companies."]

Spanish Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks

Meets With Besharati

NC1909080288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, met the political director general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry yesterday. During this meeting, the director general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry expressed his readiness to increase the ties between the two countries and said: The Spanish Government condemned the Iraqi use of chemical weapons against the Kurds of northern Iraq in an official statement a few days ago.

Meets With Velayati

LD20090088 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Spain's Foreign Ministry General Manager for Afro-Asia Affairs Jorge Descallar currently here at the head of a delegation met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday and extended to him an invitation from his Spanish counterpart to visit Spain. In the meeting, the two sides stressed expansion of Iran-Spain relations.

It is strange that Iraq which earlier stressed implementation of Resolution 598 is now raising irrelevant points, said Descallar. Yesterday, the Spanish official called on Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati to discuss promotion of mutual ties.

Spanish National Day Marked

NC2009082888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] During the ceremonies marking the Spanish national day, which were held in the Spanish pavilion on the 8th day of the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair, and which were attended by some Iranian officials and foreign guests, the political-commercial director general of Spain spoke on the 6th consecutive year of Spain's participation in this significant event and on the exchanges between the two countries. He said: The Spanish and Iranian economies complement each other in the sense that Spain needs crude oil and some other Iranian products and, in return, it can provice technical expertise and technology as well as the raw materials for industrial products.

He added: In the present decade, Spain has imported an average of more than $1 billion worth of Iranian products annually, which comprises 7 percent of Iran's total exports. He said: These figures indicate that Spain is among the six main purchasers of Iranian goods. Spain's nonoil exports from Iran exceed $30 million. He added: During this period, Spain's exports to Iran equaled $270 million, which comprise more than 2 percent of Iran's total imports.

The director general of our Foreign Ministry then spoke of the commercial ties between the two countries and said: Iran's economic ties with Spain have followed a remarkable and increasing trend since the revolution. The average of the total exchanges between the two countries in the period after the revolution indicates an increase of $280 million as compared to the preceding corresponding period. [sentence as heard]

West German Economy Official Continues Visit

Agreement Signed

LD1909170488 Hamburg DPA in German 0855 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Tehran (DPA/VWD)—Iran and the Federal Republic today decided to reactivate their joint economic commission, which has not met since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. An agreement to this effect was signed by 'Ali Majidi, deputy economics minister, and Dieter von Wuerzen, state secretary in the Bonn Economics Ministry, following 4 days of talks in Tehran on increased economic cooperation.

The joint commission, comprising representatives of the two countries' economic sectors and governments, is due to meet for the first time in the first quarter of 1989. It will seek possibilities for new forms of cooperation, for facilitating economic relations, and for removing difficulties arising from different laws and stipulations. State Secretary von Wuerzen viewed the talks as positive and stressed Iran's readiness to give Germany a priority rating for reconstruction projects after 8 years of war. Tehran has great expectations of the Federal Republic and is showing great trust, Von Wuerzen said to representatives from the German economic sector at the Tehran International Trade Fair, where the FRG has the largest contingent with 70 exhibitors. [passage omitted]

Expansion of Ties Discussed

LD1909192188 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Deputy Economic Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) Dieter von Wuerzen met Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani here Monday and discussed with him expansion of Tehran-Bonn economic and political ties.

In the meeting, Von Wuerzen expressed hope that the ministerial meet of the Iran-W. Germany Joint Economic Commission and its preliminary session would lead to promotion of mutual cooperation.

Larijani enumerating priorities for post-war reconstruction and fulfillment of new projects, referred to the Islamic Republic's policies concerning rebuilding of war-damaged areas.

At this stage Iran gives priority to its cooperation with those countries which maintained friendly ties with it in the course of the Iraqi imposed war, he said.

Memorandum Signed

NC2009073388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] At the ceremonies to mark the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the FRG on economic cooperation, our deputy minister of finance and economic affairs said in an interview with the Central News Unit: The preliminary meeting of the economic commission will be held before the end of the current year and the final session will take place in the first 6 months of next year. He added: The FRG has been Iran's biggest trading partner in recent years. The two countries exchanged goods worth $2.24 billion in 1987. Thirty-five percent of Iran's nonoil exports were sent to FRG markets and the FRG heads the list of exporters to Iran.

During the meeting of the joint Iranian-FRG economic commission, which will be held at the level of economic affairs ministers of the two countries, the FRG's cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic reconstruction will be discussed.

The Central News Unit reports that in the memorandum of understanding signed in Tehran, Iran and the FRG agreed to increase oil exports as well as nonoil exports to the FRG, eliminate bottlenecks, provide greater facilities by the FRG for the export of Iranian carpets to the FRG and to cooperate in boosting Iranian carpet exports to the EEC. The two countries also agreed to expand cooperation in training Iranian technicians and to suspend the levying of additional taxes.

According to this report, the FRG deputy economic minister expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In an interview with the Central News Unit he said: During the FRG delegation's visit, talks were held on boosting Iran's oil exports as well as nonoil exports to the FRG. We also discussed the implementation of various projects in Iran, details of which will be announced later.

The Central News Unit reports that after this memorandum of economic understanding was signed the FRG economic delegation left Tehran last night.

Bulgarian Trade Delegation Arrives in Tehran

NC1809061788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Khristo Khristov, foreign trade minister of Bulgaria [title as heard], arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a high-ranking 26-member delegation and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran by the deputy minister of agriculture and several other officials.

During their stay in Tehran, the Bulgarian foreign trade minister and the delegation accompanying him will visit the Tehran International Trade Fair and will hold discussions with some of our officials on the expansion and consolidation of bilateral economic relations.

Embassy Officials on Trade

NC1809064688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Bulgaria is to purchase $30 million worth of non-oil products from Iran during the current year, Aleksandur Ivanov, minister plenipotentiary, and Borisov, commercial counselor at the Bulgarian Embassy in Tehran, stated at a news conference. They pointed out that in view of the good relations between the two countries, it is hoped that trade between Iran and Bulgaria will further expand.

The Bulgarian Embassy's minister plenipotentiary stated that Bulgaria is prepared to increase its cooperation with Iran in technology transfer, joint production, and trade. On trade between the two countries, he said: During the current year Bulgaria will import $150 million worth of goods from Iran; $110-$120 million will be for oil products and the remainder for non-oil products. Ivanov said that during the current year Bulgaria has signed an agreement on the purchase of 4,500 Renault cars, 200 ambulances and 4,500 lift trucks. According to the Bulgarian Embassy's minister plenipotentiary, Iran is to purchase the same amount of goods from Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Embassy's economic counselor also said at the news conference that Bulgaria is prepared to participate in Iran's reconstruction, particularly with the transfer of technology and computers.

Bulgarian Minister Meets Musavi

LD1909193288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Bulgarian foreign trade minister, and that country's electronics minister [as heard], met with Prime Minister Musavi this evening. In the course of this meeting, Bulgaria's foreign trade minister presented a report on his visit to Iran and announced his government's readiness to cooperate with Iran in various fields and in postwar reconstruction work.

Prime Minister Musavi, referring to the two countries' economic relations during the war, said: It is natural that cooperation between the two countries will expand during peace time. While reiterating that Iran is seriously striving to realize a just peace, the prime minister said: In view of the aggressive nature of the Iraqi regime and other evidence, we believe that the possibility of further atrocities by that regime still exists. Naturally, we will not hesitate to defend our rights. The prime minister added: We would like to have friendly and healthy relations with you after the war.

Non-Oil Imports 'Insignificant'

LD1909193388 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov today called on Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, where the two expressed satisfaction over the trend of Iran-Bulgaria trade exchanges. It was hoped that the level of such exchanges would further increase.

Khristov also met separately with the official in charge of Commerce Ministry 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here the same day.

In the meeting, Khristov said that in his talks with Iranian officials he realized there were no economic or political obstacles in the way of expansion of bilateral relations.

In response, Vahaji agreed that the trend of goods exchanged between the two countries over the past few years has been quite positive, but told Khristov that Bulgaria's purchase of non-oil goods from the Islamic Republic is still insignificant in view of their mutual trade ties.

Romanian Minister Arrives for Trade Fair, Talks

NC1909075888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Radu Paunescu, the Romanian minister for machine building industry, arrived in Tehran this morning. The minister, who will stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran for a few days, was welcomed at the airport by Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

At Mehrabad airport, Mr Paunescu spoke to a Central News Unit correspondent on the objectives of his visit to Iran, and said: During the visit, which is taking place at the invitation of Mr Nabavi, we will strive to follow up the issues discussed between the two countries last July. He added: We have an approximate idea of most of your problems and we are ready to assist Iran in reconstruction and industrial matters.

Regarding Romania's participation in the Tehran International Trade Fair, he said: About 10 of our industrial firms are actively participating in the exhibition at present, and the members of the delegation accompanying me are experts in various machine building fields.

The same report adds that the Romanian minister will visit the Tehran International Trade Fair and will meet and hold discussions with the ministers of industry, defense, plan and budget, and the head of the Commerce Ministry during his stay in Iran.

Meets With Industries Minister

LD1909180588 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Ways of expanding Iran-Romania industrial cooperation were discussed in a meeting here Monday between Romanian Minister of Machine-Building Industry [title as received] Radu Paunescu and Industries Minister Gholamreza Shafe'i.

In the meeting, the Romanian official expressed his country's preparedness to continue cooperating with the Islamic Republic in various fields, especially construction industries.

The two sides also discussed Tehran-Bucharest cooperation in fields of paper, rubber, and plastic production.

Received by Mo'ayeri

LD1909192088 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Visiting Romanian Machine-Building Industry Minister Radu Paunescu met Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri here Monday and submitted a written message from Premier Constantin Dascalescu for his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

In the meeting, Paunescu called for expansion of mutual ties and further cooperation in agriculture, aviation industries, and aluminium plants.

In reply, Mo'ayeri pointed there were ample grounds for promotion of bilateral relations in the post-war reconstruction period, especially in agriculture, heavy industries and power generators.

He said the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair offers very good opportunity for the two sides to become familiar with each other's potentials and ways to exploit them.

Economic Delegation Departs for Beijing 18 Sep

LD1809210488 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh left here for Beijing Sunday afternoon at the head of an economic delegation to attend the Iran-China joint economic commission.

Iran and China are two powerful and great Asian countries whose strategic relations can have a major effect on regional developments, said Mirzadeh in an interview before departure.

In view of the two countries' good ties during the Iraqi-imposed war, a more extensive cooperation in post-war reconstruction is necessary, he added.

The volume of annual trade exchanges between Iran and China is expected to reach dlrs. 600 millions, an increase of dlrs. 100 millions compared to the figure anticipated in last year's protocol, Mirzadeh said.

Mirzadeh who is also the head of Headquarters for Reconstruction of War-Stricken Areas said the two sides would also discuss the possibility of China's cooperation with Iran in reconstruction of war-ravaged regions.

Mirzadeh is accompanied by representatives from Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Mines and Metals, Culture and Higher Education, Industries, Construction Jihad, and Agriculture, as well as the Fisheries Organization. The visit will last a week.

Soldiers, Volunteers Leave for Borders

LD1909130388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The seventh convoy of the army of His Holiness Muhammad, the special Safar group, consisting of combat, educational, specialist and redispatched forces as well as clergymen from the Qom Seminary, left from Qom today for the country's southern and western border regions. A large group of volunteer forces from Kerman Province also left today for the Islamic homeland's border regions from Kerman's Imam Husayn garrison. According to the Central News Unit, the volunteers, combat forces from Kerman, Rafsanjan, Jahrom, Jiroft, Baft, Bam, Sirjand, Shar-e Babak, Zarand and [word indistinct], chanted revolutionary slogans and declared their readiness to obey the commands of the imam of the ummah and to defend the Islamic Revolution.

Kurdish Refugees Arrive at Border Crossing

LD1809121288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Yesterday evening, the first group of Kurdish refugees from Iraq were received by officials of our country at the Seru border crossing following a request

by the Turkish Government for other states to receive half of the refugees. The Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it would accept some refugees.

The Kurdish refugees, who have been housed in temporary quarters, told correspondents that mercenaries of the Iraqi regime had used suffocating gas during their recent attacks on Kurdish regions and had committed many acts of savagery forcing the people of the region to leave their homes and land. A number of those people were able to make their way to the Turkish border after much suffering.

KEYHAN on Iraqi 'Crimes' Against Kurds

PM1509094788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Sep 88 p 18

[Editorial by J. Firuz: "Issue of Iraqi Kurds and Geneva Talks"]

[Text] The crimes of the Iraqi regime against the Kurds in the country's north take on new dimensions each day. Utilizing maximum military strength, the unabashed use of chemical weapons, and the ruthless crushing of the Kurdish people have created such fear and such a deadly atmosphere that so far hundreds of Kurdish women and children, young and old people have left their homeland to seek asylum in Iran or Turkey. It is said that during the next few days this number will increase.

Despite the widespread nature of these crimes and despite the fact that they have generated much publicity in the world, as well as demonstrations and protests by Iraqi Kurds everywhere, international organizations and various countries have not shown the proper response in order to stop the Iraqi regime. In effect, they have left the Iraqi regime'd hands free to continue these crimes.

The catastrophe suffered by that country's Kurds at the hands of the Iraqi regime is an issue that goes beyond internal affairs. This question calls for a correct response from regional countries and the international community against the Iraqi regime so that it will stop these actions. Of course, Western countries and the international community say they do not want to raise issues that would upset the Iraqi regime during the Geneva talks. For this reason they have not taken serious positions toward the Kurdish issue thus far.

Of course, this is exactly the opposite of what should be done. This response does not taking a position against the Iraqi regime nor emphasizes peace. The truth is, however, that the smallest reaction on the part of international circles against the Iraqi regime first, would immediately put an end to the crimes against the innocent people of Iraqi Kurdistan, to their cruel massacre, and second, would pave the way for peace in the region. The best action to take with regard to the question, and one way of turning it into a political lever, is to bring it up at the Geneva talks. That is the logical place for it to be discussed, but so far nothing has been said at the talks concerning the Kurdish question.

Following the decision by Islamic Republic of Iran to leave the areas it had occupied in Iraqi Kurdistan as part of an effort to achieve peace and accept Resolution No 598, a cease-fire was declared between Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi regime then used this opportunity to mass its troops in the area to crush the Kurds once and for all. It began a widespread attack against the Kurdish-populated areas of the region.

It is therefore logical that the Islamic Republic of Iran ask that a cease-fire also be declared in Kurdistan and that the Iraqi Army not be allowed to make any new moves in that region. In this way the rights of the Kurdish people will be realized under the supervision of the United Nations. Until that time, the Iraqi forces should be restrained from any further attacks in that area.

Along with this issue, the Kurds generally must be given some guarantees under the supervision of the UN secretary general and the United Nations as a whole concerning their rights. This is one question that is part and parcel of the Iran-Iraq war, as well as the Geneva talks, to resolve any future problems in the region. The United Nations and the secretary general himself are responsible for the Iraqi regime's crimes against the Kurds of that country.

It is in no way acceptable that the Kurdish question is an internal one for Iraq. At present, both Iran and Turkey are involved and are dealing with the political, security, and human aspects and consequences of the problem. These countries have been forced to open their borders to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi-Kurdish refugees and in effect have become involved with their problems. Therefore, they also have the right to defend the rights of the Kurds. In addition to this, thanks to the cease-fire the Iraqi troops are free to crush the Kurds and at the same time are placing obstacles in the path of reaching a comprehensive peace, starting with a lasting cease-fire.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully justified in stopping this opportunistic move by the Iraqis. The Iraqi troops want to finish off the Kurds before winter arrives. Of course, after that they want to come to the Geneva talks, bolder than ever, to add to their expansionist demands, to make more problems for the trend toward the peace.

Furthermore, the issue of the Iraqi Kurds cannot be ignored in terms of human consideration. The Western countries who scream and shout about human rights are silent about this crime and easily ignore it. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which throughout the war

defended the rights of the Kurds and other peoples of Iraq, must under the present circumstances bring up the issue in a humanitarian context at the Geneva talks.

In addition to wanting a guarantee that the cease-fire include Iraqi Kurdistan, the issue of ensuring security and rights for the Iraqi Kurds and other Iraqi refugees can be brought up as a main topic in the Geneva talks with the secretary general. In this regard, the UN secretary general and his representative must listen to the demands of the Iraqi Kurds as soon as possible, even before the other parts of the resolution are put into action.

When the Iraqis give themselves the right to bring up side issues not relevant to the main problem, to bring the Geneva talks to a deadlock, it is the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss seriously the issue of the Iraqi Kurds, to ensure their security and their rights. This is a real and humane issue linked with human rights. It is necessary to include Iraqi Kurdistan in the cease-fire plans at Geneva in order to force the Iraqi regime to obey them. A cease-fire is only complete when it is also in force in Kurdistan.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Leaves for UN Assembly Session

BK1909163188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, left Islamabad this evening for New York to lead Pakistan's delegation at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly beginning tomorrow.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said Pakistan would cosponsor a draft resolution on Afghanistan in the assembly calling for strict compliance of the Geneva accord, political settlement of the issue, and formation of a broad-based government through intra-Afghan dialogue.

The foreign minister said there has been a qualitative change in the situation in Afghanistan after the Geneva accord. However, internal conflict continues to rage unabated and millions of refugees are unwilling to return to their homes under the present conditions.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan would also table a draft resolution calling for establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia and extension of binding assurances to non-nuclear weapon states against threat or use of nuclear weapons.

He replied in the affirmative when asked whether he would be reminding the world body of its commitment for the solution of the Kashmir dispute.

He said in his address to the General Assembly on the 27th of this month he would convey to the comity of nations Pakistan's views on various important regional and international issues.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he would also be meeting President Reagan the same day. He will discuss with him the Afghanistan issue and matters of bilateral interest.

The focus of the talks with him will be on the post-Geneva development, especially implementation of the agreement to which both Pakistan and the United States are irrevocably committed.

Official Addresses Vienna IAEA Session

BK2009042488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] The chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmad Khan, has said the situation has worsened by the introduction of nuclear submarines in South Asia which represents unwarranted nuclear escalation. He was addressing the plenary session of the IAEA in Vienna.

He said we cannot afford to commit our precious and limited economic resources in pursuit of nuclear weaponry and its delivery system, including nuclear submarines.

Mr Munir Ahmad Khan said Pakistan had been trying since 1975 to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Pakistan also had offered to sign, with its neighboring states, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or accept full-scope safeguards to prevent induction of nuclear weapons in our region which adversely affect peace and stability. But so far there has been no response to these constructive proposals.

He said it is regrettable there has been a shortage of (?funds) available for the use of nuclear technology in the fields of agriculture, medicine, and industry which is prejudicial to the needs and interests of the developing countries.

The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission said Pakistan has made steady progress in the peaceful nuclear energy program. Many new strains of crops have been developed and nuclear medical centers in Pakistan are treating over 150,000 patients every year.

Commentary Urges Peaceful Election Atmosphere

BK1909093588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Ahmad Hasan Sheikh commentary]

[Text] The Khushab incident [in which an attempt was made on life of former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo] in which violence was sought to be introduced to counter legitimate political campaigning has come in for general disapprobation from all segments of public opinion in the country.

And rightly so, because once violence is allowed to become the idiom of political debate, the forthcoming election contest and, in fact, the whole fight for democracy can go awry. The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has therefore promptly reacted to the first sign of trouble and asked the administration to track down the culprits and take stern action against them.

This should dispel any doubts about his determination to make good his pledge to hold free, fair, and impartial elections. Some [words indistinct] is bound to be generated as the election campaign gets going and should be taken in its stride.

Some demagoguery, some rhetorical flourishes, even from both sides of political rivals, can be accepted as part of electioneering, but to arouse frenzy and fanaticism on whatever issue—political, religious, ethnic, or linguistic—is to foul up the whole atmosphere.

It is reassuring however that there is a broad realization on the part of political elements of the hazards of stoking the fires of fanaticism and of the need to conduct the election campaign in a spirit of mutual tolerance and accommodation.

The coming elections by all counts are going to prove a watershed in the history of our nation. After a prolonged period of authoritarianism, both civil and military, we are starting with a clean slate in a way. What we write on it through the free exercise of our vote is going to determine our future as a democratic polity.

It is true personalities make a difference, but an election contest can prove beneficial for the country only if the emphasis is on issues, policies, and programs instead of on personalities.

Nobody questions the role of a leadership in the destiny of the nation, but when attention comes to be riveted on personal charisma, resurrected or living, the issues get submerged and pushed into the background, and no nation can thrive by turning a blind eye to problems staring it in the face.

As a people, we confront a host of daunting problems, both internal and external, problems of strategic environment, of economy, of unemployment, of backwardness, and of integration. These are not going to go away by slogans. They have to be tackled by hard thinking, sound planning, and determined action.

As voters, it is our duty to force the contenders of political power to present before us their programs and policies and declare as how they propose solving the many serious problems facing us. Such a debate can take place only in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

The leaders must have the freedom to present their views and the voters the opportunity to hear them without hindrance and discrimination. It is by this process that the future political leadership should earn the legitimacy of the people's vote.

Sri Lanka

India Extends Cease-Fire in Northeast by 5 Days

BK2009031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] In consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka, India has decided to extend the current 5-day unilateral cease-fire by the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] by another 5 days. This has come into force from 0700 today.

According to an official spokesman in New Delhi, the Peacekeeping Force has received several requests from the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka for extension of the cease-fire.

The citizens expressed confidence that given some more time they will be able to persuade the LTTE to give up violence and return to the mainstream politics.

The spokesman said this will be the final extension. He said the unilateral cease-fire declared by PKF on Thursday [15 September] was to allow all Tamil groups, including the LTTE, to come forward and participate in the electoral process which has already commenced.

The spokesman said the Sri Lankan president has taken some constructive steps to redress the specific Tamil grievances and carry forward the implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement. Further progress can only be made through the democratic process.

It is imperative, therefore, for everyone who is genuinely interested in the long-term welfare of the Tamil people on Sri Lanka to come forward to take part in the electoral process, the spokesman added.

Extended Cease-Fire Holding

BK2009115888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1056 GMT 20 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—The extended cease-fire in northern and eastern Sri Lanka is holding and no incidents were reported.

The Indian High Commission told LANKAPUVATH that the unilateral 5-day cease-fire declared by the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] last Thursday [15 September] was being extended for a further 5 days, commencing at 0700 hours [0130 GMT] this morning.

This was the final extension of the cease-fire and will not, in any way, affect the electoral process, which has already commenced.

The IPKF had received several requests from citizens in the north and east for an extension of the cease-fire and expressed confidence that if given extra time they will be able to persuade the LTTE to give up violence and enter the democratic fold.

The High Commission said Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene had taken several constructive steps to redress specific Tamil grievances and carry forward the process of implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

India's Dixit Meets Citizens in Vavuniya 18 Sep

BK1809165088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, today visited Vavuniya to meet prominent citizens of the area. This is part of India's efforts to explain to the people of the northern and eastern parts of the island the importance of the beginning of the political process. Most of the people welcomed the cease-fire now in force.

Mr Dixit explained to them the necessity of the Tamil groups taking part in the democratic process. He asked them to impress upon the LTTE to respond to the cease-fire and join the political process after surrendering arms and accepting the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

230 Tamil Detainees Released 20 September

BK2009133888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1223 GMT 20 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Government today released a further 230 Tamils detenues. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the [words indistinct] the port of Galle on board Indian ship [words indistinct]. They said less than a hundred remained to be released.

The Sri Lankan Government yesterday announced it had decided to release all detenues within the framework of the general amnesty granted by President Jayewardene in terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

Northeast Provincial Council Elections Planned

BK1909170088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the election commission has called for nominations for elections to the 71-member northeastern provincial council. In a notification issued in Colombo today, the commission said the nominations will be received in the eight district kachcheris [revenue offices] in the northeastern provinces between the 3d and the 10th of next month.

Meanwhile, a presidential communique issued in Colombo this evening said that both the Governments of India and Sri Lanka feel that it is important to hold elections to the northeastern provinces in order to give the citizens a chance to exercise their democratic rights, despite continuing insurgency by the LTTE.

The Sri Lankan president has ordered the election commission to complete the elections by the middle of November.

The Government of Sri Lanka reiterated that all militants who lay down arms and come back to the democratic process will be granted general and unconditional amnesty. It is also decided to release all detenues within the framework of the general amnesty.

Election commission has been asked by the Sri Lankan president to grant due legal and political recognition to all parties and groups which participate in the elections.

Sri Lankans belonging to all communities who were registered as voters in the Northeastern Province in the 1982 electoral register, as subsequently revised up to 1987, will be eligible to vote even if they are displaced at present.

The Peacekeeping Force will provide the overall security to the elections, while the Sri Lankan Government will be making the necessary logistical arrangements.

The communique further states that in response to suggestions which have been coming and may be forwarded in future by the provincial councils and the government, changes deemed necessary for more effective devolution of powers and more efficient functioning of the councils will be given serious consideration.

Legislation will be passed before the actual date of the northeastern provincial council elections to make Sinhalese and Tamil operational as official languages.